



The Bethel Citizen

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Serving Bethel and neighboring communities in the mountains of western Maine

Newry must re-vote two selectmen seats

By ALISON ALOISIO

The Newry selectmen's seats currently held by Wendy Hanscom and Gary Wight will have to be re-voted June 10 because of a procedural error in the 2013 and 2014 election process.

In addition, the town's two current SAD 44 School Board directors must resign and the seats will be appointed by the selectboard at its next meeting.

The three-member selectboard made the announcement at their regular meeting Tuesday after a half-hour executive session conference call with the town attorney.

The board learned that the election of the officials by secret ballot at the 2013 and 2014 Town Meetings was procedurally incorrect. In August of 2012, the town had adopt-

ed state law Title 30-A Section 2528, which town officials mistakenly thought allowed voting for town officials to take place at Town Meeting.

Section 2528, however, requires the voting happen at the polls.

Section 2527 allows for secret balloting at Town Meeting, the officials said. "2527 is the one we thought we were following," Selectboard Chair Wendy Hanscom said.

Hanscom read a statement. "Because of irregularities with the method of the elections in 2013 and 2014, the town did not fully utilize the secret ballot method of voting," she said.

To prevent "any potential issues," the town attorney advised that the selectmen and School Board members elect-

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Newry has three options for school funding change

By ALISON ALOISIO

Newry selectmen learned Tuesday they have three options for addressing dissatisfaction with the current method for determining the town's share of the SAD 44 budget: get the Legislature to change it, negotiate a new formula with the other SAD 44 towns, or withdraw from the district.

Selectmen recently agreed, at the request of resident Jim Sysko and others, to explore the possibility of altering the current valuation-based formula in order to factor in a town's student population - a change that could shift a significant portion of Newry's \$2.7 million

share to the other towns in the district.

Newry has only 24 students, according to SAD 44.

In 2005 the state Legislature changed the statewide method for assessing local school funding shares to factor in student population, as well as valuation. But legislators also made a special exception for SAD 44 and SAD 6, which have high-valuation member towns, to keep those districts on a valuation-only based formula.

SAD 44 officials had lobbied in favor of the stipulation, but some in Newry have said since that the

See NEWRY, Page 3

Bethel board defies MDOT

By ALISON ALOISIO

Bethel selectmen last week decided to ignore, at least for now, part of a bill from the Maine Department of Transportation for the town's share of rebuilding the Sunday River Road several years ago.

Town Manager Jim Doar said the town had agreed to pay a third of the cost, estimated by MDOT as \$600,000. But when the bill arrived, it totaled \$237,771.

"They were way over budget, so they billed us for a lot more than we contracted for and appropriated," Doar said. "We said, 'At least justify it. They just handed us a bill.'"

On March 7, Doar said, he received an e-mail with the justification. "It seems to me that they just did a poor job budgeting," he said. He also expressed frustration that the town was not notified of the potential cost overrun at the time it was happening. As a result, Bethel had not budgeted for the added costs.

Doar acknowledged that the contract language was not "solid."

"It said we will pay one third of project costs, estimated to be \$200,000," said Doar.

"What if we don't pay?" asked Chairman Stan Howe.

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Steve Ochrymowicz climbs a trail at Mt. Abram. He said snowshoers also make the trek up the ski mountain. The Moonlight Hike at Mt. Abram draws uphillers for a nighttime outing. S. Ochrymowicz

For skinning skiers, it's all about the up

By ALISON ALOISIO

Most skiers who hit the alpine slopes are there for the downhill thrill, not the uphill trip.

But for the skiers who enjoy "skinning," the climb up the trails is what matters the most.

Skinning climbing a ski slope with removable, synthetic material stuck to the bottom of skis - is not new. But its growing popularity is.

"The Inuits [native peoples of the Arctic] used seal skin for snow travel," said Chris Hayward, who with Bob Harkins and other

members of the "Earn Your Turns" group regularly climb the trails at Sunday River.

Steve Ochrymowicz of Greenwood is an uphill climber at Mt. Abram who uses slightly different equipment to achieve the same result. He dons lightweight back country skis with "fish scale" bottoms, which allow him to climb the trails without slipping back. He then returns to the bottom of the mountain the traditional way.

"It's all about the up and not so much about the down," Ochrymowicz said. "It's like a religion."

I appreciate nature much more. I'm a hunter, I'm always in the woods. I look for tracks."

When he first started eight years ago, he got a chilly reception from some alpine skiers surprised to meet someone going the other way.

But they got used to seeing him, Ochrymowicz said.

"Now they wave at me. I've got a little fan club. They yell my name," he said.

Ochrymowicz averages five or six climbs a week. His record for one day is five trips, at an average of about 35 minutes per round

trip.

He keeps to the side of the less heavily-traveled trails to minimize the risk of a mishap with people skiing downhill.

"In eight years I've never had a close call," he said.

Mt. Abram asks the uphillers to simply check in at their ticket office before starting a trek.

At Sunday River skiers get an uphill access day ticket for \$10. They are requested to use particular trails and follow listed safety rules, a policy that was put in place last year.

See SKIERS, Page 4

Hit-and-run victim was a THS student

By ALISON ALOISIO

Sixteen-year-old Xavier Fuentes was literally between schools when he was killed Saturday in South Paris by a hit-and-run driver.

Fuentes attended Telstar High School this school year and had just finished his time as a sophomore at the school Friday before

he was going to transfer to Leavitt High School.

"There are a lot of sad people," THS Dean of Students Charlie Raymond said Monday.

While much of the student body was off campus for Career Week, Raymond said a large group of sophomore boys turned up in his office Monday to try to process what had happened.

Fuentes was walking on Route 117 in South Paris Saturday night when he was struck by a vehicle that didn't stop.

He had lived with his mother and step-father, Sheila and Ron Cole, in Greenwood while he attended THS, Raymond said.

He said the boy was a quiet student, but "very friendly and always had a smile on his face."

"When I talked to the other kids, they were saying he was a really good kid. They were saying to themselves they were sorry they hadn't gotten to know him better," said Raymond.

See VICTIM, Page 3

In Andover, it's a withdrawal replay

By ALISON ALOISIO

Andover voted 217 to 123 Tuesday to restart its school withdrawal process.

The referendum was in response to a petition for a vote to restart the earlier process that ended last month with a vote (238-131) that fell just shy of the 2/3 majority needed to leave SAD 44.

Selectman Susan Merrow said Tuesday night that at the next selectboard meeting on April 1, the board will likely choose people to recommend to SAD 44 as members of the town Withdrawal Committee.

SAD 44 has 30 days to send its School Board chairman to Andover to appoint the committee, she said.

"The plan will be for our committee to approve the [earlier] withdrawal agree-

ment right away, since it was already approved by everyone, and hand it over to SAD 44," said Merrow. "It was drafted by [the SAD 44] legal team, so I hope there aren't any problems with it."

Other town officials said recently the most likely timeframe for a vote on actually withdrawing is this fall.

See ANDOVER, Page 3

This Saturday: Fly Fishing Film Tour & Moon Boot Lover!

The Millbrook Tavern & Grille

Open Thurs - Sat, 4pm to late night for cocktails & sports
Dinner served from 5pm - 9pm (Serving dinner 'til 10pm on 3/22)
Pool table, dart boards, game room

Hearty Breakfast Buffet

Start your day with our hearty country breakfast buffet, served weekends in our Main Dining Room.
Now taking reservations for Easter Brunch, 11am - 2pm on 4/20

SATURDAY - FLY FISHING EXPO & FILM TOUR

10AM - 4PM - Fly Fishing Expo at our Conf. Ctr
6:00PM - Fly Fishing Film Tour featuring "North of Wild" by Gray Ghost Productions, \$8 pre/\$12 door
9PM - Peter Prince & Moon Boot Lover in the Tavern... no cover charge

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Western Maine Fly Fishing Expo

Saturday, March 22
9am-4pm
Bethel Inn Conference Center
6 Broad Street, Bethel

ADMISSION \$5 Adults
15 & Under Free

Second Annual Premier of Carter Davidson's "North of Wild and The Fly Fishing Film Tour" reception will start at 6:30 - Tickets \$12
www.westernmaineflyfishing.com

BASEBALL - SOFTBALL

Sign Ups!
at Bethel Town Office by March 28

Baseball: age 5 - 15
T-Ball, Rookies, Minors, Majors, Babe Ruth

Softball: age 7 - 18
Farm, Little, Senior League

Rotary Country Breakfast

Gould Academy
Ordway Dining Hall
Sunday, March 30
7:30-11 am
All-You-Can-Eat Buffet to benefit Scholarships & Community Projects.
Adults \$8,
Advanced Sale \$7
Under 12 \$3
www.bethelrotary.org

The Bethel Citizen

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Letters

THE NEWRY SCHOOL FUNDING ISSUE

To the Editor:

In January 2005 a decision was made by the State Legislature that cost the town of Newry's taxpayers an additional \$1 to \$2 million per year. This decision was not made or approved by the people of Newry. The Bethel selectmen discussed the issue publicly but the Newry selectmen did not. The issue was a new State of Maine school funding rule that would factor in a per pupil component for each member town along with the existing real estate valuation. The decision to make SAD 44 an exception from this state-wide rule was a done deal by the time we all saw the results in a January 27, 2005 Lewiston Sun Journal article. It has been nine years now so the loss to Newry is in the \$9 to \$18 million range and counting.

This loss could be justified had the exemption decision been made by the town as a whole but no public meetings in Newry on the subject were held. Instead a very quick and non-transparent proposal to the State Legislature by our representative at the time, Bruce Bryant, was passed making exceptions for only SAD 44 and SAD 6 from the new state-wide formula. Why wasn't a town meeting called for an issue with such enormous repercussions?

In 2013 Newry's payment of \$2,785,580 to SAD 44 for 28 kids represents about 2/3 of its entire tax income. In 2005 the payment was \$2,005,514 for 31 kids. Judging by the current funding formula the state thinks that the number of kids a town is trying to educate should be taken into account when paying the bills. The state average per pupil cost for secondary education is about \$7,500. Newry is now paying nearly \$100,000 per pupil!

I've heard the argument that the funding system we have now, totally based on valuation, treats all property owners in the school district more or less evenly. It doesn't matter how many kids a town has. If Newry had zero kids it would still be right to give SAD 44 \$2.8 million dollars. Using that reasoning Bethel should give Newry some river frontage or pine plantations it has and Newry doesn't. Or Woodstock and Greenwood should give Newry some lake shore lots that Newry doesn't have. It is ironic that long ago when the area's town lines were formed Newry was left with only mountainous, rocky land deemed almost worthless compared to the rich river soils, white pine forests, and valuable lakes with waterpower potential that the other towns got and now Newry with these worthless mountains is the financial breadbasket of the area.

Since making my home in Newry in 1972, and attending town meetings for all these years, I have been baffled as to why the system is set up so that we don't ever discuss or vote on the school budget which is by far the biggest expense the town has. The excuses I heard were that the fiscal years didn't line up, or the state education department didn't want too much local control, or the stability of the school district unit might be jeopardized if member towns had too much financial say. But this is our kids' education we are talking about and shouldn't local and even family control be encouraged? The "F" grade that SAD 44 got last year from the state is all the more reason for concern. We don't want to reward failure like we do now. We want to reward success.

Here's an idea. Newry gets the exception removed and it pays its school share just like all the other member towns in the state (except SAD 6) with the state and the remaining towns in the district making up the difference to keep the school budget the same or the district makes necessary cuts to balance their budget. Over the course of each year a district wide citizen appointed group, in consultation with the school board similar to the one now chaired by Al Cressy, could develop a supplemental budget proposal which would request additional funds from Newry to the district. The group would hold public workshops to develop the budget plan and the town of Newry would vote on approval. The proposal to the district would include itemized fixed dollar amounts to be spent on specific uses in an outlined way. If the proposed plan is rejected by Newry voters they then would consider less expensive alternatives. This idea would provide MORE money to the district than it currently receives and would give Newry's taxpayers an important role in how that money is spent.

Also, a parallel town program could be funded that would directly benefit Newry's students (trips to museums, exchange programs, a bus for Newry children for special events, etc.). We could even vote to spend dollars to send some of our students to private schools like the Eddy or Gould Academy for example. Believe it or not, Newry taxpayers would still save money.

Is it wrong for Newry to want some control over where its money goes? What would the other towns do if they were in Newry's situation? Right now Bethel is considering buying land for \$2 million, something Newry could not do with the current school funding formula controlling its budget. Maybe Bethel should invest more in education and less in land.

First we need to have a public hearing in Newry to see what the will of the people is on this issue. It may be that the majority are content with leaving things as they are but with a real chance to improve our kids' education and a significant reduction in taxes I would bet otherwise.

Jim Sysko
Newry

MISSIONARY TO SPEAK IN BETHEL

To the Editor:

Scott Couper, United Church of Christ missionary to South Africa, will speak Sunday, March 23, starting with a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. at the West Parish Congregational Church (Bethel Congo). He works at Inanda Seminary, the first secondary school exclusively for African girls in Southern Africa.

There is no charge for this informative meeting. For the potluck supper, bring a dish to share (main dish, salad, or dessert). Scott will speak following the supper around 6:15. For more information contact Jane Chandler, 357-3524.

Jane Chandler
Bryant Pond

THANKS FROM THE SIMMONS

To the Editor:

Once again we are reminded why living in a small community is so special. Our families and friends organized a benefit for us, that was truly overwhelming. The turnout and show of support blew us away. It was not just the town of Andover, but the greater Rumford, Bethel, Upton and Errol, N.H. communities who showed up and/or offered donations.

Thanks to those who enjoyed the spaghetti dinner donated by the Good Food Store. Thanks to all who donated or bought auction items. A special thank you to the Teachers' Lounge Mafia for providing a hilarious show, and to all of our musical friends for a wonderful night.

The financial help is so much appreciated at this time. The love and caring we have felt during this "set back" will last forever. The emotional support we have received has been crucial to Cindy's recovery. She is well on her way back thanks to you all.

Steve and Cindy Simmons
Andover

SHOP LOCAL

To the Editor:

Shopping local is an awesome focus to have especially when you're excited to live in a community that flourishes – a community that includes experiences, opportunities and good living for its people and visitors.

I am always glad when people intentionally put aside money to grab a pizza at Home Slice, or have breakfast at Crossroads or Inman's. Cash mobs are over the top fun and buying anything at the Philbrook Place is just plain good for you.

Another amazing way to support the "shop local" mindset is to talk up local places. Let your friends and family know that there are choices in our town for recreation, staying, eating, and shopping! Learn about outdoor/indoor activities, restaurants, local publications, retail stores and be excited!

Have you read this month's Bethel Living – a wonderful publication about all of us? Did you know that Mt. Abram is a prototype Mountain Playground and the Mountain Rider's Alliance is totally all about it – taking all the good that's already going on there and adding some new ideas and excitement!

Did you know that just next door to Bethel in Newry, there's a small school called The Eddy that's changing it up for middle-schoolers and their families?

Just outside of Bethel toward Greenwood, year round and especially as spring approaches, you'll be glad we have Northern Roots Grow Supply close by!

Please do SHOP LOCAL. Spend your money in and around town if you can. But, don't forget the simple ways you can keep our community diverse and economically viable. Chat it up about local businesses. Find out more and share in the excitement.

Carey Kish, who blogs under the heading Mainelac Outdoors for Mainetoday.com, e-mailed me this week. He said, "Good news about good things and good people needs to get spread around. That's what I try to do in my own small way."

Shopping local isn't only about spending local; it starts with living local... together! Let's do it!

Deborah Doyle
Bethel

Celladore

'Was It All Worthwhile?'

One December morning I awoke before daylight feeling energetic. Great snowflakes were belting down from the southeast. It would be an all-day storm. I tip-toed downstairs, feeling sure that B.B. would sleep for several more hours as he had been spending very long days with wood and water. I fed the beasts, made the fires, had my breakfast and was just starting on a long list of chores that had been put off because they required quiet and concentration, when down came the lord and master, all agog to discuss the latest decision of the Supreme court. I changed my plans. I had made some silk scarves to enclose in Christmas card letters, could get these pressed now. But I became so engrossed in the discussion that I let the irons get too hot and scorched the ends of three scarves before I noticed what I was doing. This could be remedied as I could cut them off and make a new hem so it was not a loss except for time. I put them away to fix later.

Then I decided that I could make a batch of elderberry jelly from juice canned in the fall. All went well until the phone rang. I looked at the juice, it did not seem anywhere near ready to boil so I left it on the gas stove, jelly having more flavor if cooked quickly. B.B. went down to tend the furnace. The phone conversation did not seem to be a very long one but B.B. and I both arrived back in the kitchen to see the purple plum-colored foam and juice go cascading over the outside of the kettle. The jelly was quickly poured and finished but the stove needed a scrub, a slow, tedious process as the model was old. The top iron and enamel pieces came off easily, but underneath the ducts for the gas, when removed, left not an open space but an entanglement of wires that could not be moved. One must scrape about with a spatula under the wires; the pilot lights were continually going out and needed to be relighted. This was a job on which one really appreciated an interesting conversation. Just now B.B.'s lecture came to an end and he disappeared outside. I worked on, in an hour had finished, had the iron parts all drying in the black stove oven and felt quite elated and ready again to tackle one of my original projects.

B.B. came back inside, bringing with him the driver of the snowplow to get warm and have a brief rest. I realized that he had been out for hours and needed food, that he would not eat unless we did, so I made a big pot of coffee and we all had lunch.

He went back to work. B.B. announced that he had free time and was ready to wrap the fragile California package for his family out there. I ran to the house attic for fancy wrappings, to the shed attic and poked about for a box the right size. B.B. wrapped but it was not a tight package. I ran to the shed for some old newspapers to shred, to the attic again for some homemade soap to stuff in the corners, to the desk in the living room for a label, topside to the typewriter to address it, ran back. Finally, it was ready to go to post.

By now it was not long from our early four o'clock pitch darkness. My energy and ambition of the morning for my thought-requiring projects was gone. I went out for a quick snowshoe walk in the storm, back, filled the lamps and spent the rest of the day with the newspapers. Another day gone with no great deeds done, just a preoccupation with necessary inessentials.

Here is a summer day. B.B. left at six o'clock knowing that he would need all the time as a section of Main Street had to be dug up for a new waterline. I was happy as he fortunately had found a man to help, Steve J., an academy teacher and a fine neighbor. I would have the entire day alone, and flashed through the breakfast dishes making plans. Rang the phone. Harland and Gertrude were inviting me to go tomorrow on a blueberry expedition up Whitecap. This was arranged. Then I took my basket and walked down through the woods to Phyl's to thin her beets for her, my pleasure as I liked the tiny ones to pickle for winter use. I stopped by on the way home to leave a book for Dot A., who had been ill. Burton was busily canning green beans from his garden all by himself.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Citizen welcomes letters to the editor. We hope our readers will regard the newspaper as a public forum for discussing any topic they believe to be of interest to the community.

Insofar as possible, we attempt to publish letters without alteration, but we do reserve the right to edit for length, libel, taste and readability. Letters should be limited to 300 words, but that limit will be waived when the situation warrants.

In situations where the letter writer has a political, economic, familial or other relationship that could be perceived as bearing on the topic addressed in the letter, we strongly suggest the writer make that relationship known in the text of the letter or after their signature.

When writing, please include your full name, signature, address and telephone number (so that we may verify authorship).

The deadline for letters to the editor is 4:30 p.m. Monday. Letters submitted after that deadline will be considered for publication when circumstances permit.

Send your letters to:

Editor, Bethel Citizen, PO Box 109, Bethel, ME 04217-0109. Fax: 824-2426. E-mail: news@bethelcitizen.com.

Our Back Pages

By Danna Brown Nickerson

10 years ago: Newry's Administrative Assistant Sylvia Gray told selectmen she planned to retire on July 1.

Approximately 35 members attended the annual Mundt-Allen American Legion Post 81 oyster stew supper.

Births: Maria Lynn Amaral, Thomas Daniel Graney Wilson.

Deaths: Pauline M. O'Leary, Andrew Aron.

20 years ago: An early-spring storm dumped heavy snow on the Bethel area, causing slippery roads and several accidents.

The Bethel Boy Scout troop went on an overnight winter camp out to Bog Brook in Gil-ead.

Births: Matthew Philip Kane, Joshua Christopher Bonney, Matthew James Bolen, Carson William McKay, James Arthur Lowell, Tyler Scott Brown.

Deaths: Richard L. Davis, Muriel S. "Scotty" Bowhay.

30 years ago: Despite miserable, rainy weather, 422 Bethel voters went to the polls to cast ballots in the annual municipal election. Incumbents Patricia Dooen and Arlan Jodrey were re-elected as selectmen.

Sixth grade student Debbie Barker was the winner in the SAD 44 spelling bee. Runner-up was seventh grader Jill Murphy.

Births: Rachel Sears Ecker-Polak, Heidi Dawn Hefley.

Deaths: Mildred B. Chapman, Perien A. Dudley, Mrs. Florence A. Burgess.

40 years ago: The Telstar music department presented a concert featuring the Telstar chorus performing with guest chorus, Lake Region, as part of an exchange concert.

Peter Poor, Andover, was chosen by the faculty at Telstar Regional High School to attend Boys' State.

Death: Kenneth W. Feener.

50 years ago: A Golden Wedding Open House was held at the home of Francis Berry in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Berry.

Ralph K. Ryder of Bing-ham was appointed Supervising Principal of the Crescent Park and Ethel Bisbee schools.

Birth: Tammy Mae Coolidge.

Deaths: Mrs. Katherine Lydon, Mrs. Rose Smith.

60 years ago: The annual Boy Scout Father Son Banquet was held at the Masonic Hall.

Edmund C. Smith of Bethel was named to membership in the American Hereford Association, the world's largest purebred registry organization.

Birth: David Michael Bennett.

Deaths: Mrs. David (Emily) Forbes.

70 years ago: Fifty-two young men from the town of Greenwood were in military service.

Fire at the home of Stanley Brown on the Locke's Mills road caused an estimated damage of \$400. It was covered by insurance.

Deaths: Daniel McPherson, Marshus Philbrook.

80 years ago: The Levi Bartlett place on Chapman Street was sold to Henry Flint.

Slate blackboards were removed from the walls of the old Gould Academy building. Interesting data such as students' and teachers' names and classwork was revealed on the old blackboards painted on the walls beneath.

Deaths: Mrs. Emily Stone, Mrs. Nellie Frost, Clarence Bailey.

90 years ago: A minstrel show, "Moonlight Cabaret Minstrels," was presented at Odeon Hall. Dancing was enjoyed after the show.

The farm home of Harry Williamson and family at Sunday River was destroyed by fire.

Deaths: William L. Farwell, James P. Packard, Mrs. Hannah Mason.

100 years ago: A complete directory of the towns of central Oxford County was published.

Herrick's Orchestra furnished the music at the Congregational Church Go-To Church Sunday.

Deaths: Mrs. Elizabeth Penley, John P. Coburn.

The Bethel Citizen

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ANDOVER

Continued from page 1

Last Saturday residents voted at Town Meeting to pay an extra \$180,000 on top of the town's regular share of the SAD 44 budget in order to keep the Andover Elementary School open another year. (See related story).

Adler elected

In town elections, Jim Adler defeated Brian Mills 188-149 for the seat previously held by Merrow, who did not run again.

Tim Akers, running unopposed, was re-elected to the SAD 44 School Board.

More than reval, school eyed at Andover meeting



Andover residents voted overwhelmingly Saturday to pay \$180,000 to keep the Andover Elementary School open again next year.

A. Aloisio

VICTIM

Continued from page 1



Xavier Fuentes
Facebook photo

Raymond himself had just been getting to know the teen better. "After school I'd see him waiting for a ride," he said.

Most recently Raymond had offered one of his homemade pickles, which he keeps handy to use as an icebreaker with students. "He tried it and brightened right up. I felt like we were starting to get to know each other," said Raymond.

He said the tragedy was particularly difficult to deal with because there are so many questions about the accident that so far remain unanswered.

According to reports, family members said the boy had gone to see a movie at the Flagship Cinema in Oxford but left by himself on foot. The family is offering a \$1,000 reward for information about the accident.

By ALISON ALOISIO

"I shouldn't be paying the same amount of money for a camp on the side of the mountain as I'm paying for my house," said Andover resident Rick Mills.

Mills was arguing at Saturday's Town Meeting to do a town-wide property tax revaluation, something that hasn't happened in nearly 30 years.

But voters once again turned down the proposal, which had a price tag of \$70,000.

They also scrutinized the purchase of three garage doors for the Fire Station, \$45,000 that sits untouched in a cemetery account and the type of material to be used to repair the gazebo on the Common.

About 100 people turned out for the annual meeting, and through a combination of cuts and reallocation of funds, held the amount to be raised from taxes for municipal expenses close to last year.

No reval

As he has at past meetings, resident Wayne Delano led the objections to a revaluation, arguing that the adjustments made by selectmen have kept the town overall at 85 percent of the state's valuation of the town, within the state requirements. He also said people unhappy with their individual valuation can make their case to the

town.

"If somebody feels overtaxed, there is a process. They can go to the selectmen and say, 'I believe my property taxes are wrong,' he said, and to try to get them corrected.

Replied Selectman Judy Tabb, "It's not the people who are overtaxed that we're worried about. It's the people who are undertaxed."

Mills said he favored a revaluation because of what he sees as discrepancies, such as between his two-room camp and his home. "I guarantee you that somebody's not paying their fair share," he said.

But selectboard Chair Susan Merrow said the town has made quite a few individual adjustments. She said while the overall issue needs to be addressed, "this is not the year to do it," because the future of the elementary school could affect valuations.

The measure was defeated, but voters did approve \$10,000 to go into a revaluation account.

They also approved \$20,000 to update tax maps, a process Merrow said was needed ahead of a revaluation.

Other concerns

Residents questioned town officials closely on several other issues.

They wanted to know why \$4,000 to pay for EMT classes was being requested at Town Meeting after

the classes took place. Fire Chief Rob Dixon said Andover currently has only two EMTs and more trained people were needed to provide coverage. "Our coverage for EMS is critically bad. It was so important I was willing to sacrifice equipment maintenance to make sure this gets done," he said.

The class, said Dixon, had to be paid for before Town Meeting. Voters approved it.

Dixon and selectmen were also questioned on a \$4,000 purchase of three new garage doors for the Fire Station. Selectman Keith Farrington said the purchase of the first door was made through an insurance payment, after the door was damaged.

But Dixon said he then bought the other two doors to improve the heating efficiency of the station.

He said he had filled out paperwork that selectmen approved, but not until after the purchase.

"I failed to follow policy," he acknowledged.

An article to approve \$3,900 for cemetery maintenance drew a question from Delano on why \$45,000 was sitting unused in a Cemetery Trust account. "It's ridiculous it's not being used for what it meant to be used for," he said.

Tabb said the funds had been put there over the years by individuals for care of specific cemetery

plots, and the town is not authorized to use it for general cemetery maintenance. She said the board wants to take the issue to Probate Court to try to get access to use the funds.

Also prompting discussion was an article to spend \$4,500 to repair the gazebo/stand on the Common.

Selectman Susan Merrow made a motion that the repairs should preserve the historic integrity of the structure and not utilize composite materials.

Farrington disagreed with the restriction on materials, saying it might be more cost-effective in the long run to use composites in the steps and floor.

But the motion was approved easily.

AES \$\$ approved

Under other articles, voters overwhelmingly approved \$180,000 to keep the Andover Elementary School open another year.

Merrow said that down the road, if the town remains a member of SAD 44, she personally would not favor paying what she called "ransom money" to keep the school open. "For myself, I think this is our last chance that I feel comfortable, and the elementary school would be closed," she said.

After some debate voters approved \$20,000 to go into the Designated Road Improvements Account toward the eventual re-

building of the Farmer's Hill Road. Road resident Sid Pew initially proposed \$100,000 and Delano later made an amendment to change it to \$50,000.

Former Selectman Trudy Akers said the town would be better served financially by first paying off other town debt that carries significant interest, rather than raising money to put into a road account that earns little interest. Residents eventually settled on the \$20,000.

On funding for the Transfer Station, voters reduced the selectmen's recommendation of \$50,000 to last year's figure of \$48,000.

Residents also saved themselves some money by designating any funds in Surplus over \$120,000 to go to tax reduction.

Selectmen had recommended to use anything over \$160,000. The fund stands at \$268,000.

Voters also declined to authorize the town to accept credit/debit cards or to set up a Rapid Renewal program for additional online registrations. They did approve \$1,300 to set up a new town website.

After all the changes to money amounts, the town will end up with \$746,598 to raise from taxes, according to Farrington, a figure he said was similar to last year. It does not include Andover's regular share of the SAD 44 budget.

MDOT

Continued from page 1

"Are they going to take the road back?" quipped Selectman Peter Southam.

"My sense is they will take [the extra funds] from the local roads assistance program," said Doar, for which Bethel gets about \$70,000 a year from the state.

Despite that assessment, Board Chair Stan Howe favored holding out.

"I'd like to play hardball with them just to see if we don't pay, what they do," he said.

"We could take it to the Budget Committee and ask them to appropriate money in the Capital Fund," said Doar. "But that's an excavator payment."

The board decided to hold out for now on the overage. Doar said Tuesday

the town's attorney is reviewing options under the agreement. Doar also contacted MDOT and asked that the rest of the bill be "forgiven," and was told the department will consider the request, he said.

Doar to rail council

On a happier MDOT-related note, Doar told selectmen he had been asked by the commissioner to become a member of the Passenger Rail Advisory Council. With the board's blessing, he said he would accept. He currently serves as chairman of the Androscoggin Oxford Coos County Rail Corridor Commission, which is seeking to bring passenger rail service back through Bethel.

NEWRY

Continued from page 1

town was never formally asked to weigh in on it. (See Sysko's Letter to the Editor, Page 2).

Sysko and Selectman Brooks Morton recently met with SAD 44 Supt. Dave Murphy to discuss current options. Morton reported the results at Tuesday's selectboard meeting.

He said Newry could seek a bill in the Legislature by talking to local representatives. But, he noted, that could be difficult because local legislators represent multiple district towns.

Another option, said Morton, would be to initiate a process in SAD 44 whereby each town would have a four-member committee to help negotiate an agreement among the five towns. Each committee would have a se-

lectman, a school director and two at-large members. The agreement would then go to a district-wide vote.

"The other alternative would be withdrawal," said Morton.

The selectmen agreed to carry the discussion over to the next regular meeting April 2, when Sysko might be able to attend.

Road bid awarded

In other business Tuesday, the board awarded the bid for engineering a rebuild of a portion of the

outer Sunday River Road (by the Letter S swimming hole) to JAGJA Inc. Six other bids were received: CES Inc. (\$30,000); HEB (\$30,000); Pine Tree (\$33,700); Gart-

ley/Dorsky (\$38,975); Main-Land (\$68,300); and Down-to-Earth (\$278,289 - design and build).

Wendy Hanscom was re-elected selectboard chair.

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SKIERS

Continued from page 1



Chris Hayward and Bob Harkins with their ski equipment. The 'skins' can be seen on the bottom of Hayward's skis. They are members of the Earn Your Turns group at Gould Academy. Jamie Catlin of Gould uses another technique for climbing the mountain - a snowboard that can be split in two pieces for the climb, then reassembled for the ride down. The variety of uphill ski techniques was highlighted in the recent 'Winter Wild' race up the mountain at Sunday River.

A. Aloisio

That has all worked out for Hayward and Harkins, who climb three or four times a week.

"We've had no close calls," Hayward said.

Much of the time they are out before the downhill traffic starts.

Harkins, on his alpine skis, and Hayward, on his telemarks, head up the mountain with other Earn Your Turn members at 5:15 a.m., wearing headlamps.

This winter, the early start has meant regularly braving sub-zero temperatures. But it doesn't take long to warm up.

For Hayward, the exercise is also a way to stay in shape for rescue missions with his Mahoosuc Mountain Rescue

team. And he uses the skis with skins on some of the rescues.

"I use the technique to go into the woods to get people," he said.

He's been skinning for 20 years, much longer than many. Harkins has been at it for four.

Over the course of the winter, Harkins uses an app on his cell phone to track the total number of vertical feet he has climbed. Last year he totaled 100,000. "I got there in April," he said.

An average climb is between 1,400 and 1,800 feet. This year Harkins expects to hit 125,000 feet.

But it's not just about reaching goals.

"It's about getting out early

in the morning, the solitude, and the exercise," said Harkins.

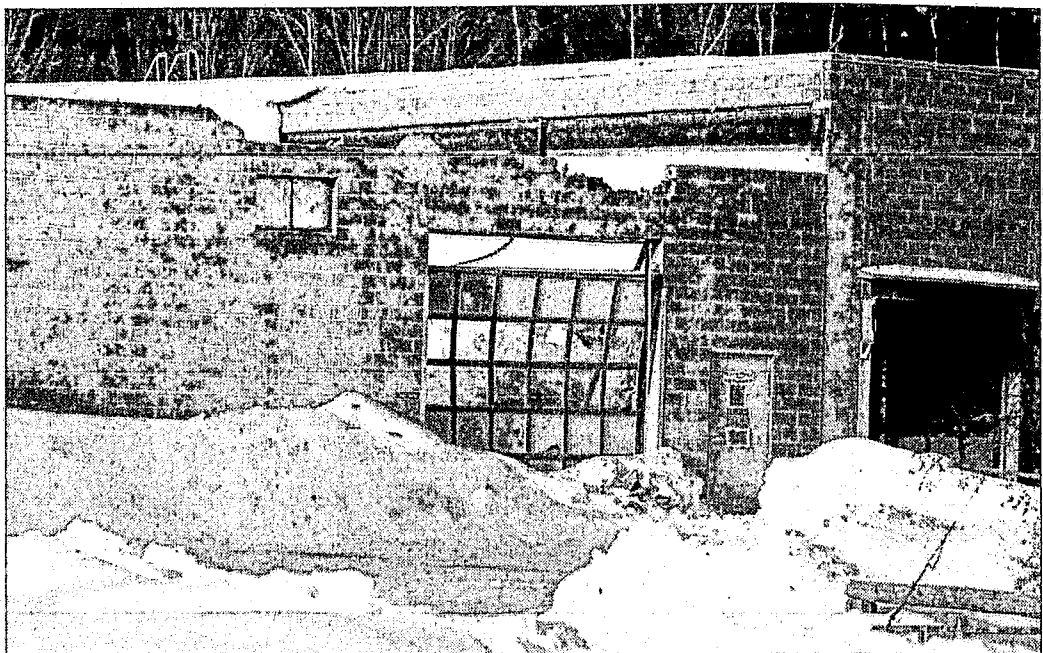
While Sunday River and Mt. Abram welcome responsible skinning skiers, some ski areas do not allow them because of concerns about liability in case of collisions.

But Ochrymowicz compares uphill ski climbing to skiers who pause along the trail on their way down.

He could just as well be, he said, "a skier who happened to stop and take a break."

Hayward hopes ski areas that ban skinning will rethink it, so others can enjoy the benefits he and his group do.

"I hope mountains do find ways to approve of it," he said.



SNOW TOO MUCH FOR SOME ROOFS-Last week's snowstorm was apparently the straw that broke the camel's back for some roofs in the Bethel area. Above, the roof of Saunders Mill in Locke's Mills gave way on Friday. Snow can be seen behind the buckled door. Below, on Saturday the roof of a garage owned by Peter Redman in Newry collapsed.

A. Aloisio; P. Redman



Briefly

Mexico man dies in crash

HANOVER — A man from Mexico was killed when his car slid into a pulp truck on Route 2 southwest of Rumford on Friday. Arland Burgess, 58, of Mexico was driving a 1999 Chevrolet Monte Carlo when he apparently hit a slushy section of the road and slid in front of the fully loaded log truck owned by Coffin Trucking of West Paris, Oxford County Sheriff Wayne Gallant said. He said Burgess was the only person in the vehicle. "Based on our initial investigation, it looks like he died on impact." The driver of the truck, David Abbott, 29, of West Paris, was not injured, Gallant said. The collision near Brown Road tied up afternoon traffic at least a mile in both directions, according to initial reports. Seven officers with the Oxford County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene around 3:45 p.m., followed by three Maine State Police officers, Med-Care Ambulance and the Rumford Fire Department.

Benefit for Jody Gaudreau

GREENWOOD-A benefit for Jody Gaudreau (a cancer patient) will take place March 29 at Mt. Abram. There will be a bake sale from 3 to 5 p.m. and a buffet dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. The Tina Kelly Band will play from 8 to midnight (cover charge). There will also be raffles throughout the day and a 50/50 with drawing between 7 and 8 p.m. A portion of ticket and food sales for the day will be donated to Gaudreau. For more information please call LeeAnn at Mt. Abram 875-5000. To donate to the baked goods sale or the dinner call Lori at 357-9508.



The Way I See It

By Sharon Bouchard

I had a very disturbing dream the other night; actually it was more of a nightmare because it was about cleaning the clutter in my house.

I know there are people who not only spend time thinking about doing a complete cleaning of their house; they actually do a complete cleaning of their house. I am not one of those people so for me to dream about it does seem a bit nightmarish. Especially since in this dream I went around the house clearing everything out with a blowtorch.

There is probably some symbolism in that dream. My house is a cluttered mess and my subconscious mind might feel the easiest way to deal with it would be to blowtorch everything away. There is no doubt that would be the easiest way to deal with it, but not very practical.

One of my problems with cleaning, above and beyond the fact that I'm a slob, is that I have a hard time throwing things away. Some might even consider me a hoarder; not to the degree that you see on television, but a hoarder nonetheless.

A small example of this is saving condiment packets. When takeout food is brought into the house, I always save the packets of ketchup, soy sauce, sweet and sour sauce,

etc. It seems to me such a waste to throw good stuff like that away and they're good backup should I run out of those items.

That's a good idea in theory, but those little packets do have a shelf life. I tend to store them for years; the soy sauce dries out and the ketchup gets quite disgusting. And yet, I have tons of these packets in the corner of a kitchen counter. I just can't bring myself to throw them out

The idea of taking a blowtorch to this stuff is pretty stupid because it would burn the house down

because I'm sure some are good and they may come in handy someday.

More practical, but not doing me any good are all the spare buttons that come with some clothing. I'm sure you're thinking saving buttons is a good idea, but I resort to safety pins rather than sew on a button. I have another corner of a kitchen counter that loaded with buttons in little plastic baggies that I'm sure I will never use, but it seems so wasteful to throw them out.

Obviously, I'm not good at tossing anything away. My kitchen counters are so cluttered with various envelopes, note pads and newspaper articles that I think I might someday read. It's a wonder I can even prepare a meal in all that mess.

To add to my problem is that I can't resist free stuff so when I go to a business-to-business show, a trade show, a craft fair or any other venue where freebies are given out, I'm in seventh heaven. I fill up whatever goodie bag they hand out with note pads, pens, pencils, potholders and other assorted items. All that stuff ends up on a kitchen counter and it's just too darn good to throw away.

The sad thing is I can never find a pen or a note pad when I need one because they're covered with condiment packets, buttons, envelopes and newspaper articles.

The idea of taking a blowtorch to this stuff is pretty stupid because it would burn the house down and then I'd have no place to put all my stuff. However, the way I see it if someone came in and tossed everything on the kitchen counters into trash bags it would be a dream come true. The loss of all that good and free stuff, on the other hand, would be a nightmare.

SEATS

Continued from page 1

ed in the those years resign, she said.

The vacancies on the School Board will be filled by interim appointment by the selectboard until the 2015 Town Meeting. Hanscom said the law allows for such appointments.

The current school directors are Bonnie Largess and Deb Webster. Largess was elected this year and Webster last year.

The two selectmen will resign effective June 9, and the seats will be filled by election

at the polls June 10, which is the date of statewide elections.

Wight's position will be filled for two years and Hanscom's for three. She had defeated Doug Webster in the annual Town Meeting vote earlier this month.

The selectmen will continue to serve until the June election.

To start the selectmen's election process, the selectboard on May 15 will call a "special Town Meeting" which will be the election on June 10. From

May 16 to May 26, the candidates may take out nomination papers, which are due with at least 25 signatures on the 26th.

Absentee ballots will be available May 27.

The selectboard voted unanimously to take those steps.

Asked if selectmen would eventually recommend the town adopt the law section allowing elections at Town Meeting, Hanscom said the board has not yet looked that far ahead.

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OCSD Patrol Log

Tuesday, March 11

At 4:49 p.m. a Bethel resident reported amoxicillin had been taken from his vehicle. Deputy Dave Hodgson was assigned.

At 9:38 p.m. Deputy Richard Murray and State Police responded to Bethel for a report of a male in the middle of the road screaming. The subject was gone when officers arrived.

Wednesday, March 12

At 8:18 a.m. Deputy Andy Whitney stopped a vehicle on Route 26 in Bethel for operating without a license plate. The driver was summonsed for operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

At 11:53 a.m. Deputy Josh Wyman investigated a civil/criminal mischief complaint on Bear River Road in Newry.

Thursday, March 13

At 11:46 a.m. Deputy Andy Whitney received a report of a motor vehicle operating erratically heading south on Route 26. There was no contact made with the vehicle at the time. Later that afternoon a report of the same vehicle heading north was made. The vehicle was contacted. It was determined the driver was having a medical issue.

At 5:08 p.m. Sgt. Matt Baker responded to Mayville Road in Bethel for a two-vehicle crash with no injuries.

Friday, March 14

At 7:49 a.m. a Deputy was requested to call a complainant on High Street in Bethel regarding three unidentified males who attempted to take the subject's vehicle the night before. The neighbors reportedly watched as the incident unfolded but did not contact the Sheriff's Office.

At 8:55 a.m. Cpl. Justin Brown responded to a two-vehicle crash with no injuries on the Rocky Road in Woodstock. One vehicle lost control on the snow/ice covered road and sideswiped another vehicle.

At 8:21 p.m. Deputy Dave Hodgson responded to the Walkers Mills Road in Bethel for a report of a car/pedestrian crash. A female was taken to Rumford Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Saturday, March 15

At 2:45 a.m. Deputy Peter Casey assisted the Bethel Highway Department with suggestions regarding vehicles parked in violation of the parking ban on Main Street. Three vehicles were identified as being registered in various other states and documented at violating the parking ban.

At 3:07 p.m. a caller reported skis missing from a car on the Howe Hill Road in Greenwood. They were reportedly stolen the night before. Deputy Willie Nelson was assigned.

Sunday, March 16

At 7:45 p.m. Deputies Richard Murray and Willie Nelson responded to the area of Railroad Street in Bethel for a report of gunshots. A passerby described what appeared to be fireworks at that time.

Monday, March 17

At 3:31 a.m. Deputy Andy Whitney responded to the area of Barker Road in West Bethel for a report of a vehicle stuck on the railroad tracks. The railroad company was notified. The operator of the vehicle was arrested for OUI.

Principal Melanie Ellsworth honored

By LESLIE DIXON/
Sun Media Wire

WEST PARIS — SAD 17 elementary school principal Melanie Ellsworth has received the National Distinguished Principal's Award for the state of Maine.

"Our school is getting this award because of all of you," Ellsworth, principal of the Agnes Gray and Hebron Station elementary schools, told more than 100 students and staff in a surprise assembly Monday morning in West Paris.

The program, which was established in 1984 by the National Association of Elementary School Principals, recognizes and celebrates elementary and middle-level principals who set high standards for instruction, student achievement,

character, and climate for the students, families, and staffs in their learning communities, according to the NAESP website. One principal in each state is honored each year.

Ellsworth was presented the award at the Hebron Station School by Maine Principals' Association Executive Director Richard Durost in front of approximately 150 students and staff earlier in the morning. Superintendent Rick Colpitts, Assistant Superintendent Patrick Hartnett and SAD 17 Board of Directors Chairman Ron Kugell were present at the Hebron ceremony.

Agnes Gray students and staff were then assembled to hear the announcement by Colpitts, who along with Hartnett, have both

received the prestigious award in the past.

Colpitts told the students, who rose up to applaud their principal, that Ellsworth was recognized out of hundreds of principals across the state.

"She is going to have a very big year," Colpitts said of the events Ellsworth will attend as Maine's National Distinguished Principal representative. "We're all very excited and honored that she works in SAD 17 with us."

Considered a leader in early literacy and the reading recovery movement in the 1990s, Ellsworth was hired in 1999 unanimously by SAD 17 directors as a half time teacher and principal serving the West Paris elementary school. In

2007 she was appointed full-time principal of the Agnes Gray School, and in 2010-2011 school year became the principal of both the Agnes Gray School and the Hebron Station School.

She has also served as an elementary teacher in SAD 44 in Woodstock and Bethel elementary schools and as an instructor of graduate level literacy classes at the University of Maine.

Colpitts said the extensive nomination process for the award included interviews with the applicant, staff, community members and others, plus a site visit to the school.

As a honoree, Ellsworth will attend the 2014 NDP event in October in Washington, D.C. and other events.

Bethel

By NANCY BROWN



The Bethel area received another 18 inches of snow during the two-day storm last Wednesday and Thursday. I heard a lot of grumbling about the snow, the ice, and the road conditions. After all, spring arrives today, March 20, at 12:57 p.m.

This is the spring equinox, the day that the sun shines directly on the equator and the length of the day equals the length of the night. "Equinox" comes from the Latin word for "equal night." So, when March 20 arrives we want bare ground and spring flowers. We have also been seeing flocks of robins in the area for the last few weeks. Isn't that a sign of spring? The National Audubon Society says "no." Over the past

forty years, robins have been wintering over further north because there have been milder winters. The birds will stay here and not migrate as long as they have a food supply, such as ornamental berries that stay on the bushes throughout the winter.

I dug up a few statistics about March weather in Bethel. Our average annual snowfall is 70.50 inches, just shy of Maine's average annual snowfall of 71.80 inches. The highest single-day snowfall in Bethel was 38 inches, which took place on March 13, 1939. Bethel's average March snowfall is 14.9 inches. However, in March 1887, we had 54.3 inches of snow. So, this

is not an unusual March for Bethel. It's good for the local ski areas, and also those of us who want to enjoy another few weeks of snow shoeing, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. Warmer weather and wild flowers will arrive on schedule in April. Although the Old Farmer's Almanac does say that there is a 50 percent probability of a spring frost until May 10.

Don't forget Maine Maple Sunday is this weekend, March 23. There are activities for everyone. Farms and sugaring locations are listed at www.maine-maple-products.com.

If you have news to share, please e-mail me at brown@bethelcitizen.com.

School Lunch

SAD 44 Elementary School Lunches
March 20 through March 28

Thursday: Chicken and gravy or Sun Butter and jelly on wholegrain bread with yogurt, mashed potatoes, peas, cornbread, diced pears, chocolate chip cookie.

Friday: Teacher Workshop Day. No School.

Monday: Teriyaki dippers with breadstick or Sun Butter and jelly on wholegrain bread with cheese stick, seasoned rice, peas, pears, orange wedges.

Tuesday: Spaghetti with homemade sauce and wholegrain dinner roll or Sun Butter and jelly on wholegrain bread with cheese stick, Caesar salad, diced pears, banana.

Wednesday: Chicken patty with lettuce and tomato on a wholegrain roll or Sun Butter and jelly on wholegrain bread with cheese stick, oven fries, tossed salad, baked beans, fruit with yogurt.

Thursday: Roast turkey dinner or Sun Butter and jelly on wholegrain bread with cheese stick, mashed potato, stuffing, dinner roll, green beans, cranberry sauce, ice cream cup.

Friday: Maxx Sticks with dipping sauce or Sun Butter and fluff on wholegrain bread with cheese stick, broccoli with dip, mandarin oranges, fruit choice.

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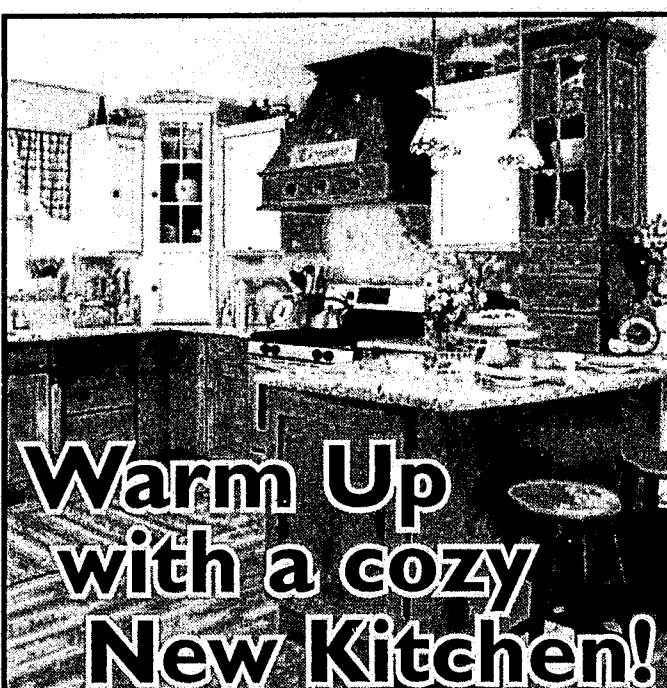
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East Bethel

By CHERRI CROCKETT



Hello neighbors, I hope you're well on this most amazing day. I wanted to let you all know that I made contact with Ruby Coolidge and she said her grandson, Michael, is doing much better. Thank you for all your prayers.

Now, would you please do me a favor and go to your window and look out. Now look up and what do you see? Clouds, what do they look like? Snow, how big are the flakes? Blue sky, how deep is its hue? Sun, how warm is it?

If you were able to read that first paragraph and then do all the things I listed as you looked out your window, then you are a lot better than a great percentage of people in our little slice of earth. I hope you find joy in reading. I hope you find comfort in knowing you have a nice warm house with windows to look out and look up at the great sky above. Regardless of what you saw or felt when you looked out your window, how did the view make you feel? I hope you find gratitude for whatever feelings they were.

Whether you're feeling the winter blues and want spring already, or you're enjoying the very moment and taking it for what it is, I pray you're feeling blessed in all you have in this life.

There are just too many of us who are always wanting more, wanting things to change, and then when we get our wishes, our most desired things and changes, we complain that they aren't how we wanted them to be. Or we complain that we have too much responsibility with the new things and we can't do what we used to before our changes took place.

These things, what are they for?

For me, I catch myself complaining that I have to clean the house, go to work or get up early to go to the gym. Well, I asked for this



INTERACT GROUP HELPS AT FOOD PANTRY—Members of the Interact Club (a youth group associated with the Bethel Rotary Club) helped package food boxes March 5 for the Bethel Food Pantry, for needy families in the area. Interact also helped on the distributing day on March 10. The group currently has 38 members. Those who helped on this day are, from left: Kirstie Hass, Sequiera Lavender, Chelsea Merrill, Maisey Griffin, Gabby Monzo, Sam Mallory, Becca Howard, Jose Artigues, and Dakota Patterson.

house and Andy and I work hard to afford it. I have a great job with a lot of flexibility and I'm doing what I've always wanted. I can afford to go to the gym and my body is well enough to do the work.

Andy and I are very blessed, but when it comes time to clean the house, go to work to earn the money to pay for it, or go to the gym to keep healthy in order to work hard, do I always think of how blessed I am? Of course not, I'm human and I do complain just like everyone else.

Over these past few weeks I've really tried to remain in the present and stop before I complain, to appreciate where I am. Taking a look at what I was complaining about really helped me see all that I have and it's working to prevent me from asking for more, or for change.

I pray that you go through this next week looking at where you are in this life and appreciating how you got there, what is keeping you from going back to where you came from and most importantly, how you may be able to share your love and joy with someone else who may not have eyes of gratitude or appreciation.

If you have any family news, whether it's current or it's a blast from the past,

please feel free to e-mail me at brindlelabs@gmail.com or call me at 857-9469. Blessings to you on this day.

Locke's Mills

By BETSEY FOSTER



The roof on the middle section of the Saunders Bros. mill collapsed recently due to the weight of accumulated snow. The walls in this same section are beginning to bow, and it appears these could collapse as well. The mill has been closed since last summer.

The Greenwood Selectmen and Planning Board members are reviewing the building code ordinance. A new document will combine several existing ordinances into one document. This document will also address such issues as the classification of many of Greenwood's roads as it applies to building permits and setback requirements.

The Selectmen agreed to help fund this summer's Mollykett Day fireworks. The Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce requested \$500 from Greenwood. An anonymous family donates \$250 on Greenwood's behalf. The Town pays the other \$250. The anonymous family stepped forward to offer this support several

years ago after the Town turned down the COC's initial request.

The town report will be available the second week of April. It will be available as a hard copy you can pick up at the town office. It will also be available online at the new Greenwood website. Town Manager Kim Sparks expects the site to be online April 1.

Property taxes are due April 1, and interest begins to accrue May 1.

Ice fishing ends March 31 so it's time to pull the shacks off the ice.

The usual roads have been posted for weight restrictions with those bright orange signs. Signs of spring in western Maine – posted roads, pot holes, frost heaves. Note that none of those signs include flowers, color, or any of the things associated with spring in more southerly areas. The myth of spring is alive and well up here as always.

Congratulations to Janet and Nick Bartlett, owners of The Local Hub and Northern Roots, on the birth of daughter Vivian. Nick told me recently that The Local Hub will be under new management starting April 1. The Bartletts will be keeping the Northern Roots business. More on the new owners coming soon.

Maine Line Products has

Locke's Mills T-shirts for sale. The shirt graphics ask for a vote on the correct spelling of the village's name – Locke Mills or Lockes Mills. Ironically, the correct spelling is not one of the options. Locke's. We need that apostrophe. Maybe this early version of the shirt will become a collector's item.

The Maniac Mountaineers will be playing for dance and/or listening enjoyment Sunday, March 23, 2 p.m., at the Locke's Mills Town Hall on Main Street. There is no charge but donations will be accepted to benefit the Town Hall repair fund. Hope to see you all there. It's been a long cold winter so go out and kick up your heels.

It's Maine Maple Sunday this week (March 23). The Dunham Farm will serve breakfast that day, 8:30 to 11 a.m., with blueberry pancakes, scrambled eggs, and bacon. The sugar shack will be open until 3 p.m. with various maple products for sale. All are welcome. The Dunham Farm is located at 29 Dunham Road, off Rowe Hill Road. Breakfast anyone with fresh maple syrup?

To say everyone is ready for winter to warm up and move forward is an understatement. We had a few warm days earlier in

March, and those days raised all our hopes. Mother Nature dashed those hopes to the ground with temperatures well below zero by night and below freezing by day as well as a foot of snow last week. When our hopes were raised earlier in the month, most of us became like horses who have seen the barn door. They break into a run for the barn. We all abandoned our tolerance of winter and rushed, with hope, toward spring. Too soon. The door of spring has not opened yet.

Please, Mother Nature, treat us a bit kinder in April.

Please send news and warmer temperatures to 3taichi6@gmail.com.

Bryant Pond

By ALICE HOYT



Judith Grover Tent 17, DUVCW met at the home of Alice Hoyt on Monday, March 10. Final plans were made for the Senior Citizens' Dinner in April. An interesting article was read by Pres. Vicki about the Civil War. Dept. President Elsie Bonney and Sally Sawyer visited Tent 19 and installed the officers and initiated a new member. Calls reported were 19 and the mystery package went to Elsie Bonney. Next meeting, April 14, will be at the Grange Hall.

Services at the Baptist Church are Sunday School at 9:15, Morning Worship at 10:30, Evening Service at 6 p.m. Wednesday evening at 6:30 is Mid-Week Service and at the same time is a girls' group called "Bloom" for girls 13 to 18. March 28 there will be ladies' fellowship dinner out. Please sign up. March 30 will be "Old Fashioned Sunday." Join us as we celebrate the rich heritage of the Bryant Pond Baptist Church. This will be a fellowship Sunday format, so plan on bringing something to share for lunch, then staying for the afternoon service.

The library program will be held in April.

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Gilead

By LIN CHAPMAN



Another winter storm dumped between eight and ten inches last Thursday. Spring arrived on Saturday with warm weather and then winter was back on Sunday. You just don't know what to expect, but having lived here for many, many years, you learn to deal with it.

My brother, Steve McLain, has been busy cleaning up from the storm. He said that when he took the dogs out, they didn't seem to mind the snow. They ran around and seemed to enjoy it.

Mary Tyler welcomed a new niece to the Cole family last Friday. Her brother, Merle Cole, Sr., became a grandfather for the tenth time when his son, Merle, Jr. became a father for the first time. Little Addison was born on March 14, which was the same date that her great-grandfather, Clifford Cole, was born.

As I sit working at my desk or relaxing in my recliner by my living room window, I enjoy watching all the visitors that appear out front of my house. Among some of those visitors were several gray squirrels and a few red squirrels. The little chipmunk is still coming out in the afternoon if it is warm enough. People driving by seem to slow down and I can only presume that they are enjoying them, too. Sometimes these people even wave. I guess the interesting bird of the week would have to be the six or eight Starlings that appeared at the feeder last Thursday during the storm. The Snow Bunting was also back for a visit. There were so many birds at the feeders that you could not have counted them if you tried. The lone Turkey has been stopping for a visit on his way from the picnic area and on down to Mary Tyler's.

Many thanks to Dylan Gordon for cleaning off the steps at the Town Office and clearing a path around the building for oil deliveries. Last week, I mentioned that there was a huge pile of snow plowed up in front of the town hall that is blocking the bulletin board where the warrant for the Annual

Town Meeting is posted. At the point that I am writing this column on Sunday, the pile is still there and even bigger, but there is still hope that it will be removed. In the meantime, the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting is posted in the Town Office and at the Transfer Station. The Annual Town Meeting is March 29 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. Please arrive early if you need to register to vote.

Gilead Historical Society
Members of the GHS have been working on the June event and there will be a couple of meetings coming up in April and May.

Just recently, the GHS had a call from someone who used to live in Gilead in the early 1950s. He was interested in joining the GHS and catching up on what has been happening in Gilead since he moved away.

Got any news? Call 836-2987 or e-mail chapmanl@hotmail.com.

Hanover

By MARIA HOLLOWAY



Condolences to the family of Mr. Arland Burgess of Mexico, who passed on Friday, March 14 in a fatal car accident on Route 2 in Hanover. Slippery roads were the cause according to the Oxford County Sheriff's Department. Please take care during the spring melt as runoff refreezes and continues to present hazardous driving conditions on our roadways. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Burgess family.

The Library will resume regular operating hours beginning Saturday, April 5. Due to the extreme cold temperatures, the Library has been closed for much of the winter. Those wishing to borrow books may visit the librarian at the Town Office on Wednesdays. The Library has purchased several new Oscar-winning DVDs, new books and has new gifts and crafts available for sale. Stay tuned for more details on a "Welcome Spring" re-opening event in early April.

The Bees are collaborating on another quilt which will be raffled off at the annual Celebration of Fall. Quilting continues at the House on the Hill at Howard Pond.

Is it really the first day of Spring?

Upton

By JOE BERNIER



The Upton Planning Board will meet Friday, March 28, at the Town Office.

The Selectmen will meet Tuesday, April 8, at the Town Office.

I have heard some people talking about the long hard winter and that it must be almost over. I believe we may have a way to go yet. Last year it snowed a bit on May 25. Yes May 25. I recommend that you do not put your snow-blower or snowplow away just yet.

Please call 533-2010 or e-mail backstjoe@gmail.com with your news.

Waterford

By ROCKIE GRAHAM



Today is supposed to be the first day of spring and yet they are calling for snow and mixed precipitation. They are also saying it will continue to be below zero at night. BRR! At least Lefty and Gertrude are getting out and about more.

They are walking all over. Today, Monday, they even headed up the ramp onto the porch. Haven't done that for a few months. Their door closed shut in the wind so they couldn't get back in their house without help. That's okay, it reminds me that I have to secure the porch to prevent them going up onto it. Annie gave me greens for them and they just chowed those down. That is a reminder of what is to come. Gertie just quacks at me like crazy. She is ready for spring even though she doesn't really know what it is as she was just born last Spring.

Interesting to read this weekend that some college campuses are setting up food pantries, not for the community, but for their students who can't afford the meal plan. That is sad; not that they are setting them up, that is great, but that students can't afford to eat. What is this country com-

ing to? The rich are getting richer and the poor are going hungry. That is so medieval, that it is hard to swallow. Us old people will be next, if we are not already there.

We were told this weekend that at Bethel Transfer Station we have to check stickers. So if you come, make sure you have your sticker. They are \$2 at the town office. Maybe someday they will sell them on site, but for now, go to the Town office and get them. Also, there will be no LOITERING at the Free Table. One short visit per day should be sufficient for anyone.

March 20, today, the first day of spring there will be a Community Supper in Waterford at 6 p.m. at the Wilkins Community House. Bring your best dish with your best homemade food in it and visit with your winter bound neighbors.

I am sure skiers are happy with all this snow, but the rest of us need a break. Our snow blowers are tired and so are we. Our truck still being out of commission, we are using dueling snow blowers to clear our driveway and that at the house we have for sale on Pike's Hill.

Saturday, March 22, there is a farm pond construction/trout stocking workshop at the Oxford Country Extension on Olson Road in South Paris. Presentation by Candace Gilpatrick NRCS at 10 a.m. and by Sonny Pierce at 12:30 p.m. Workshop fee is \$10 with lunch included. To register, contact jean.federico@me.nadnet.net or call 743-5789 ext. 111.

That is all for this week. Watch out for those snowy roads and drive carefully. Stay warm.

Andover

By JANE C. RICH



Town Meeting on Saturday was well attended. In fact, when I went down at 10 a.m. there wasn't a parking space close to be had. I had told the Selectmen I would speak to Article 33, the updating of the tax maps and figured that wouldn't come up until after lunch.

So of course, it came up before and I wasn't there. My personal thanks to all the voters who approved this article in the amount of \$20,000. The committee and I worked very hard over the last year compiling a list of all the properties that would need to be looked at for changes. My previous experience as the Register of Deeds certainly helped in this endeavor. I intend to work with the selectmen to see that this important work is completed which will facilitate the reevaluation needs which needs to get done so the taxing of property owners will be fair and equitable.

Just a reminder that the Snow Valley Sno-Gers will have their annual meeting on April 5 beginning with a potluck supper at 6 p.m. at the clubhouse off of Route 5. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. All who are interested in the work of the club which assures our trails are in great condition for both locals and visitors are invited to attend. Bring a dish to share if you come to the supper.

April 5 is also the date of the fifth grade bottle and can drive which will help finance their spring trip to Boston. If you wish to donate, you may also leave your cans on the school front porch on the right.

By the time you read this, and I'm sure you'll find it somewhere else in this edition, we will have a new Selectman either Brian Mills or Jim Adley and the decision to go forward with the withdrawal process from SAD 44 will have been made at the General Town election which occurred on March 18. That was also the day of the free lunch by the People in Action Committee. I'm glad to be the dessert lady for that event. All of the food is donated by persons interested in providing a lunch and social time for their neighbors.

Those of you who come to the Birthday Supper as an annual tradition should mark your calendars for

April 26. There will be two sittings at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. The menu is ham, mashed potatoes, veggies, rolls and of course, birthday cakes for dessert. Price is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children under 12.

There is a vacancy for an Andover School Board of Director for the MSAD 44 school board for the term expiring in 2015. This term will be re-elected at the March 2015 Town Meeting. Interested residents should leave their name and contact information at the Andover Town Office for consideration by the Selectboard.

Backyard Reflections

By SARA WRIGHT



Owl Comes to Call

A few nights ago a friend of mine called me with exciting news. Barbara had just walked out onto her porch and had seen two different kinds of owls. The barred owl was sitting in a tree, the other, a smaller owl was perched on a shovel handle on her porch! She said she watched him swivel his head back and forth (owls can turn their heads 270 degrees) as he peered at her with huge yellow eyes. This little owl Barbara couldn't identify. She wondered why there were two different kinds of owls around her house, and asked if could name the unknown owl.

I replied that she had the perfect habitat for breeding because her house is situat-

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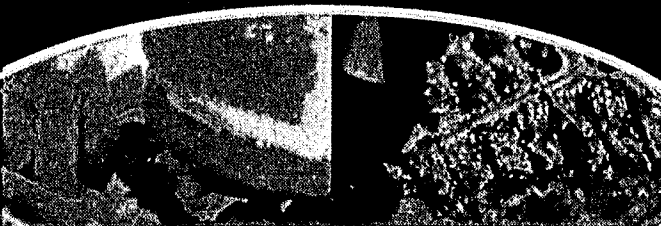
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This beautiful Pointer/Great Pyrenees mix is approximately 3 years old, spayed and up to date on all vaccinations. She will be a very devoted dog to her new person.

Leeann has a very calm personality and is just happy to be near her person. She also has a playful side and will entertain you when she gets to being her silly self. She is sweet, very loving, and would love to curl up next to you.

Responsible Pet Care of Oxford Hills is a no-kill, non-profit shelter and adoption center for cats and dogs; and the holding area for stray dogs for 12 towns in Oxford County. The shelter has moved to a new location at 9 Swallow Road in Paris.

Anyone interested in adopting a pet from RPC can visit the shelter Tuesday-Sunday 12-4 p.m. Most of the adoptable pets and the adoption application can be found online on the shelter's website at www.rpc.petfinder.com.

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ed in a patch of mixed deciduous and evergreen forest. Barbara also fed her birds so there was a stable food source in the mice that feasted on the scattered seed at night. I added that January, February, March and April are also the months when owls are searching for mates so nesting can begin. I asked her if she had heard any owls hooting because mating season is the time of year when owls were most vocal. Barbara hadn't heard any unusual sounds. From her initial description I assumed the smaller owl was probably a screech owl but I couldn't be sure.

The following morning Barbara noted a pile of scattered feathers. But it was the blood spattered ground beneath her bird feeder that told the story of a successful hunt. Two nights later the little owl was back without his original companion and this time she got a picture of him sitting on the handle of the half buried snow shovel. As soon as I saw the picture I knew I had been wrong; this was a northern saw whet owl, one of the smallest owls in the northeast. I felt a pang of envy because I love these diminutive birds have never seen one here at the house although in the past barred owls have lived here year round.

We have four species of owls that live in our area – the great horned owl is the largest, followed by the barred owl, the screech owl and the saw whet owl; others come and go. There are as many as eleven species that appear in Maine at some point during the year. Snowy owls are dependent on the lemmings and when their numbers fall we see them around here. Barred owls hunt during the day, as well as at dawn and dusk and I see them quite frequently flying low through the trees in wooded areas thick with hemlocks, but the great horned, screech, and the saw whet owl are strictly nocturnal. During the day most owls roost in the thick branches of a coniferous tree close to its center. Sometimes I have located owls by listening to crows making a commo-

tion in the woods. Crows, ravens, and even bluejays "mob" sleeping owls, and if you follow their raucous cries it is possible to locate one by sight.

Owls leave pellets under their favorite roosting trees, and if you are fortunate to find one you can discover exactly what the owl has eaten by examining the bits of hair and bones. During the snowy months these most efficient predators leave beautiful wing prints in the snow and often, as was the case with Barbara, blood stained snow tells the tale. All owls prefer trees for nesting, and some of the larger owls will use an abandoned heron, hawk, or crow nest situated high in the tree's crown to raise their young.

My barred owls used to hunt every night from the evergreens that overlook my brook; I often watched them from my window as the deer came in to feed. I had a nesting pair that lived here for years. When they first disappeared I was baffled because I know that this riparian area is ideal habitat for owls who prefer low swampy areas with hemlocks and mixed deciduous forest. However, I also knew that owls also must have nest sites to breed and today every mountain and hill around my property has been stripped of its big trees; just this winter another huge area was logged. With the felling of the trees owls and hawks are displaced permanently, and each time I walk on the road and hear the scream of another tree trunk being severed from its roots I feel a profound sense of loss, not just for the tree but for the hawks and owls that have lost their homes.

Needless to say my resident owls have vanished because there isn't enough viable forest around me to support breeding populations. Large enough nesting trees determine whether owls will breed in an area, not the abundance of rodents. As many of us know, except for rabbits, rodent populations are exploding. Mice, voles, moles, and shrews are the primary fare of most owls, and without predators like owls and hawks we are overrun

by these small mammals. It never ceases to amaze me how indifferent we are to the problems we create for non human species unless they are almost extinct.

I guess this is why I was so happy to learn that Barbara's saw whet owl was still coming each night to perch on her snow shovel handle to catch his dinner! This tendency to find a perch and to use the "sit and wait" tactic is used by most owls although the saw whet owl hunts closer to the ground. When food is plentiful during the winter a saw whet will kill as many as six mice without consuming them and cache the food (soon frozen) in a safe place until needed. Sometimes only the head of mice, the saw whet's favorite food, is eaten. These little owls also feast upon insects and frogs during the summer. During mating season saw whet owls have a short repetitive hoo vocalization and they fly much like the woodpecker does, undulating through the air, though lower to the ground. They nest in woodpecker driven holes, in natural tree cavities, and they are especially fond of snags (dead trees). During the months of mating March or April (a bit later than other resident owls) the male will often present his mate with a mouse or two before taking her to the nesting site that he has chosen. The female will lay 3 to 7 eggs and the male does all the hunting for the two of them during incubation. After the owlets are born, both parents will care for them for a few months.

When threatened this fearless little owl will elongate its body in order to camouflage itself as a tree branch bringing one wing around to the front of its body to cover its eyes. Some saw whet owls migrate; others are year round residents. These friendly little owls are preyed on by their larger relatives and are also hunted by Accipiter hawks who share the owls' preference for wooded habitats. I have asked Barbara for updates and as of the present time her little owl is coming most nights except when it snows. She has finally heard him call. My hope is that this little

fellow will stay on through the breeding season, find a mate and nest close by.

Owls have held a fascination for humans for millennium. Virtually all world mythologies hold the owl in high esteem or fear its presence. In Greek mythology Athena the Goddess of Wisdom and Knowledge was often pictured with a small owl on her shoulder. The Goddess Minerva in her syncretic incarnation in Roman mythology also appears with an owl. The scholar Marjia Gimbutus traces the little owl back to the Neolithic (7000BCE) bird and snake goddesses in Old Europe.

In Roman folklore owls were considered harbingers of death if they hooted while perched on a roof. Placing an owl feather near someone sleeping could prompt the sleeper to reveal innermost secrets according to Italian folklore. In some Native American mythology owls are feared in much the same way that they were in Roman mythology. To the Lakota Sioux they announce a coming death. However there are other Native traditions that hold the owl as sacred because Owl flies through the night acting as a messenger from the other world, offering protection from evil.

I find owls to be one of the most mysterious and unusual birds of the forest. It amazes me that it is possible to walk by one roosting in thick evergreens without ever knowing it was there (even when I am looking for one). All owls have flight feathers that are fringed so this bird can soar through the night in absolute silence without a sound being made. Their brilliant yellow eyes (except for the Barred owl whose eyes are brown) seem to penetrate the darkest mysteries. Their haunting calls conjure up night visions.

My hope is that someday I will once again have a breeding pair of owls living around my house, but in the meantime I am delighted to have a friend who has regular visitations from a saw whet owl, and one who may soon raise a family in the shelter of her unbroken and peaceful forest.

Lady and the Tramp

Bruce Guernsey, a poet and summer resident of Bethel, this week had one of his poems published on the Maine State Library website as part of the series "Take Heart: A Conversation in Poetry." The program is a partnership among the library, the state's Poet Laureate, Wesley McNair, and the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance. Under the program McNair chooses a poem each week and provides background on the poet and the poem. The poems can be found at <http://www.state.me.us/msl/poetry/index.shtml>.

Edited and introduced by Wesley McNair, Maine Poet Laureate

Though his mother and her dog are now gone, Bruce Guernsey of Bethel brings them back in today's poem – an odd couple, perfectly matched.

The Lady and the Tramp

by Bruce Guernsey

As my mother's memory dims,
she's losing her sense of smell
and can't remember the toast
blackening the kitchen with smoke
or sniff how nasty the breath of the dog
that follows her yet from room to room,
unable, himself, to hear his own bark.
It's thus they get around,
the wheezing old hound stone deaf
baying like a smoke alarm
for his amnesiac mistress, whose back
from petting him is bent forever
as they shuffle towards the flaming toaster
and split the cindered crisp that's left.

Take Heart: A Conversation in Poetry is produced in collaboration with the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance. Poem copyright © 2008 Bruce Guernsey. Reprinted from From Rain: Poems, 1970-2010, Ecco Qua Press, 2012, by permission of Bruce Guernsey. Questions about submitting to Take Heart may be directed to Gibson Fay-LeBlanc, Special Consultant to the Maine Poet Laureate, at mainepoetlaureate@gmail.com or 207-228-8263. Take Heart: Poems from Maine, an anthology collecting the first two years of this column, is now available from Down East Books.

MLT Changing Nature series

The Mahoosuc Land Trust announces the third in its Changing Nature speaker series. Ryder Scott will offer a presentation on the Changing Nature of Education for a Sustainable World on Wednesday, March 26 at 7 p.m. This event will be held at the University of Maine 4-H Camp, 17 Conservation Lane in Bryant Pond.

Ryder has been teaching and leading groups of young people and adults throughout his twenty years in education. He graduated from College of the Atlantic and earned a Master's degree in Environmental Education from Prescott College. After working for Outward Bound and Chewonki, Ryder became Program Director at Bryant Pond in 2007. With his wife, Amy and children Nyla, Grace, and Braden, Ryder lives in Greenwood in a passive solar house he designed and built in 2004. When not at Bryant Pond, the whole family can be found hiking, paddling, gardening, fishing, and skiing.

About his topic Ryder says, "Our world is changing more rapidly and dramatically than ever before. If we are to lay the groundwork for a sustainable society in the future, we must begin nurturing the next generation's capacity for innovation, vision, and creativity." Ryder Scott will share his ideas for the education field, as well as success stories from UMaine Bryant Pond 4-H Center's innovative programs with local schools. All who share a passion for education and the future of our society, as well as those who are curious about this unique educational institution in our backyard are encouraged to attend.

The next speaker in the series will be Dr. George Jacobson, Maine State Climatologist, who will speak on the Changing Nature of Climate on April 30.

For last minute cancellation questions or for more information on the full speaker series please call the Mahoosuc Land Trust office at 824-3806.

The Mahoosuc Land Trust is an accredited community land trust encouraging public interest in conservation in central Oxford County, Maine, and eastern Coos County, N.H., supporting a balance of growth and conservation and emphasizing sustainable and traditional land uses. For more information, visit www.mahoosuc.org or call 207-824-3806.

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TELSTAR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL AWARDS
From left: Alyssa Brands (Four-Year Dedication Award, MVC All Academic Team); Tori Ryerson (MVC Honorable Mention, Dec. Athlete of the Month); Casey Blaszcak (Senior Award, MVC Honorable Mention, January Athlete of the Month); Savannah Patenaude (Senior Award); Blair Stevens (February Athlete of the Month); Natasha Hart (December Athlete of the Month).
T. Brown

News from the Bethel Historical Society

The latest issue of the Society's history journal, "The Courier," has been mailed to all members and Annual Fund donors. This issue runs to 14 pages and contains a detailed article about the famous Gehring Clinic for the treatment of nervous disorders that operated at the south end of Broad Street from the late 1890s to about 1925. Among Dr. John George Gehring's better-known patients were scientist George Ellery Hale, writer and social critic Max Eastman, and philanthropist William Bingham 2nd. The well-illustrated article first appeared in a 2008 issue of "Maine History," the journal of the Maine Historical Society, and was written by BHS past president William Andrews of Newry.

The Society's Robinson House is currently closed to the public so that renovations to the exhibit rooms and center stair hall in the oldest (front) section of the building can be completed. The main office remains open, however, and emails (info@bethelhistorical.org) and phone calls (207-824-2908) will be answered by staff or volun-

teers during regular business hours (10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday). The period rooms and research library at the Dr. Moses Mason House also remain open by appointment.

Local residents and visitors are reminded of the upcoming Women's History Month program, which will take place at the Mason House on Saturday, March 29, at 2 p.m. Local historian and author Annette Vance Dorey will present an illustrated talk about the lives and careers of over 250 Maine women who had a passion for healing. These forgotten females were either Maine natives who traveled far and wide to study medicine, or women from other states who chose to establish their medical practice in Maine. Following the program, she will sign copies of her book, "Miss Dr. Lucy" and Maine's Pioneering Female Physicians, 1850s to 1920. The event is free and open to the public.

Founded in 1966, the Bethel Historical Society is the largest and most comprehensive historical organi-

zation in its region. With over 800 members, the Society fosters a sense of place — with a focus on western Maine and the White Mountain region of Maine and New Hampshire — by collecting, preserving, displaying and interpreting historically significant artifacts and documents for residents, visitors, students, and scholars. Through its exhibits, programs and publications, the Society strives to make the region's history meaningful, accessible, and enjoyable for people of all ages. In 1974, the Society acquired the 1813 Broad Street residence of Dr. Moses Mason, which contains a nine-room period house museum, exhibit hall and research library. In 1999, the Society added the adjacent O'Neil Robinson House (1821) to its facilities to house changing exhibits, a museum shop, and administrative offices. For nearly a half century, the Bethel Historical Society's wide-ranging achievements have been recognized by a number of state and national organizations.

Prime Time Ski Club news

The past two weeks (there wasn't room for this column last week) provided more great skiing for Prime Time Ski Club members and everyone else at Sunday River ski area. Some of our members had fun celebrating Mardi Gras on the slopes during "Fat Tuesday." There were lots of beads and baubles as well as colorful undergarments worn on the outside of ski clothes until these "fashion accessories" were added to various "underwear trees" along the Spruce lift line.

Last week's big dump of snow on Thursday made for a busy Friday on the slopes. Several near collisions among our ski club members and unsafe moves by some others pointed out the importance of knowing and complying with the Responsibility Code, developed by the National Ski Areas Association to help skiers and boarders recognize that there are elements of risk in snow sports that common sense and personal awareness can help reduce. The Responsibility Code summarizes the main elements of skiing safely and courteously and is printed on trail maps and posted slopeside at most North American ski resorts. It's endorsed

by the Professional Ski Instructors of America, the National Ski Patrol and the National Ski Areas Association.

Everyone on the mountain, no matter what level, is responsible for being familiar with and adhering to the seven points of the Responsibility Code: 1. Always stay in control, and be able to stop or avoid other people or objects. (Conditions on the mountain can change quickly so adjust your skiing accordingly.) 2. People ahead of you have the right of way. It is your responsibility to avoid them. (Always leave plenty of room and if you do pass someone, make sure you shout out what side you are passing on. Be aware that snowboarders have a blind side and may not see you on that side.) 3. You must not stop where you obstruct a trail, or are not visible from above. (Stopping on the side of a trail is usually a good choice. If you fall and have to stop beneath a headwall or roller, have someone stop above you to protect you from oncoming traffic. When stopping, always ski downhill of others in your group.) 4. Whenever starting downhill or merging into a trail,

look uphill and yield to others. 5. Always use devices to help prevent runaway equipment. (Have your bindings and ski brakes or retaining devices checked each season by a qualified technician.) 6. Observe all posted signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas. 7. Prior to using any lift, you must have the knowledge and ability to load, ride and unload safely. (When leaving a lift, make sure you clear the unloading area quickly so you are out of the way of other skiers and riders.)

Be safety conscious. Know the Code; it's your responsibility. And if you are looking for someone to ski with, why not join Prime Time Ski Club members every weekday at North Peak Lodge at 10 a.m. (upper level, right-hand side). After a brief time for announcements, members (who are 50 years or older) usually break into small groups of from four to eight skiers, based primarily on skiing ability and terrain preference. Check out our website at www.primetimeski-club.com or just show up at North Peak Lodge and ski a few runs with us (safely, of course) and make some new friends.

Sports

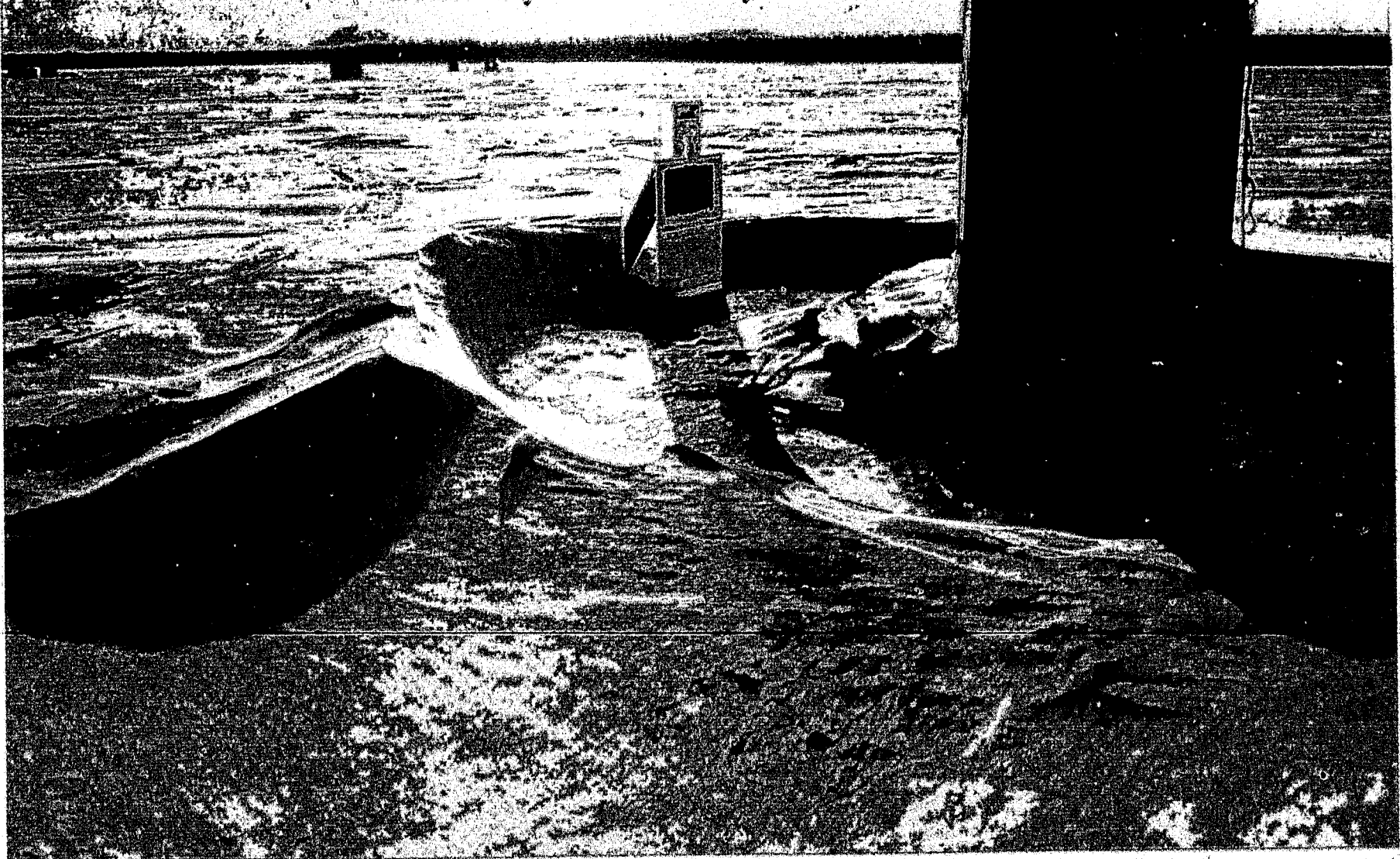
Mountain Valley Rec Basketball

In the first round of the playoffs in The Mountain Valley Rec Basketball League, all of the top four teams, Ranor (12-0, 1st round bye), LBI, Tommy Guns and Archie's, advanced to the semifinals. On Wednesday March 19, LBI hosted Archie's at 6 p.m., and Ranor took on Tommy Guns at 7:30.

In the quarterfinals, Archie's (7-6) advanced due to a first round forfeit win again Jay (4-9), who despite playing well and showing a lot of promise by the end of the season bowed out due to a lack of player availability. Then Tommy Guns (6-7) showed their might by overwhelming Bethel (5-8) 90-60 in a physical battle that was never close. Tommy Guns got out to an early lead, built it throughout the game and bulled their way to a decisive win. Bethel, who is usually the more physical team, was outmuscled, outshot, outrebounded and overmatched. Tommy Guns was led by point guard Nick Weeks with 23 points and a tough defensive game, Dave St. Germain was next with 20 points, followed by Tim Turner and Colby Knapp with 12 each. Bethel, who usually gets scoring from its wing players, was led by guard Kevin Bean with 16 points with the rest of the team held in check.

In the other game, LBI (11-2) got off to a slow start and allowed Neptune (0-13) to hang around for a while, teasing them with some casual play then turned on the jets. They cruised to a 105-56 victory on the back of Chris Baxter's 39 points. Owen Jones (18 points), ageless Dan Thibeault and Eric Canwell (16 each) and Brian Canwell (10 points) rounded out their scoring effort. Neptune was led by brothers Tom Leclerc (14 points) and Mike Leclerc (12 points). Craig Jacques also had 12 points in the losing effort.

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MAHOOSUC KIDS

Enrichment opportunities for the children in SAD #44

From the Director

The calender says spring is coming but here at MKA we are still enjoying the wonderful activities that winter brings! The kids love playing out in the snow and using the snowshoes and sleds.

The CPS staff has been doing "tracking" lessons and the kids love trying to decide what kind of animal tracks they have discovered. We are really excited that in the first week of April our own Regi LeBoeuf will be bringing Moon rocks directly from NASA to all of our sites. In preparing for this Regi has built with the kids our very own hand-made planetarium. We are so excited about this wonderful opportunity-pictures in April!

The CPS Drama club will be presenting their spring play on Friday, April 11th at CPS. The students are very excited about learning all the aspects of play production. This is certainly a busy time of year.

I can guarantee that spring will come...our Summer Adventure Program 2014 is almost ready for production! Stay warm.

Julie Hart,
MKA Director



Seth Dupuis, Rosie Barstow, Al Ballou, Anika Dupree-Breau, Jennava Jacavage, Gigi DeVivo, Skye Mills, and Connor Deprey playing on a snow mound during our tracking lesson.



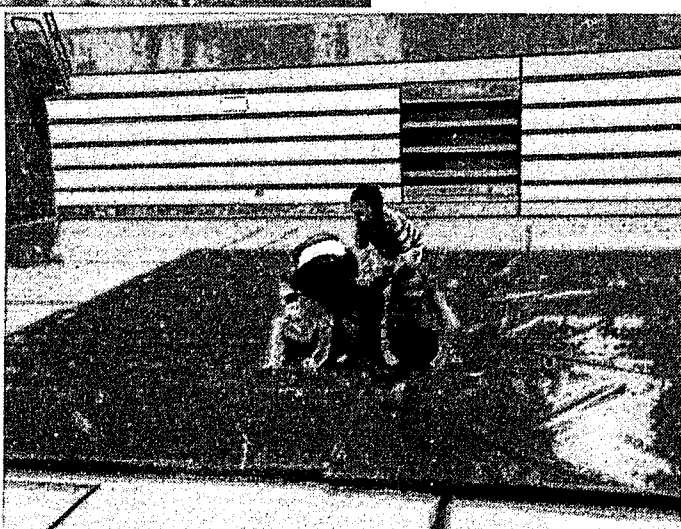
Jocelyn Nivus, Jaiden Mitchell, and Corrine Nivus during our gymnastics block.



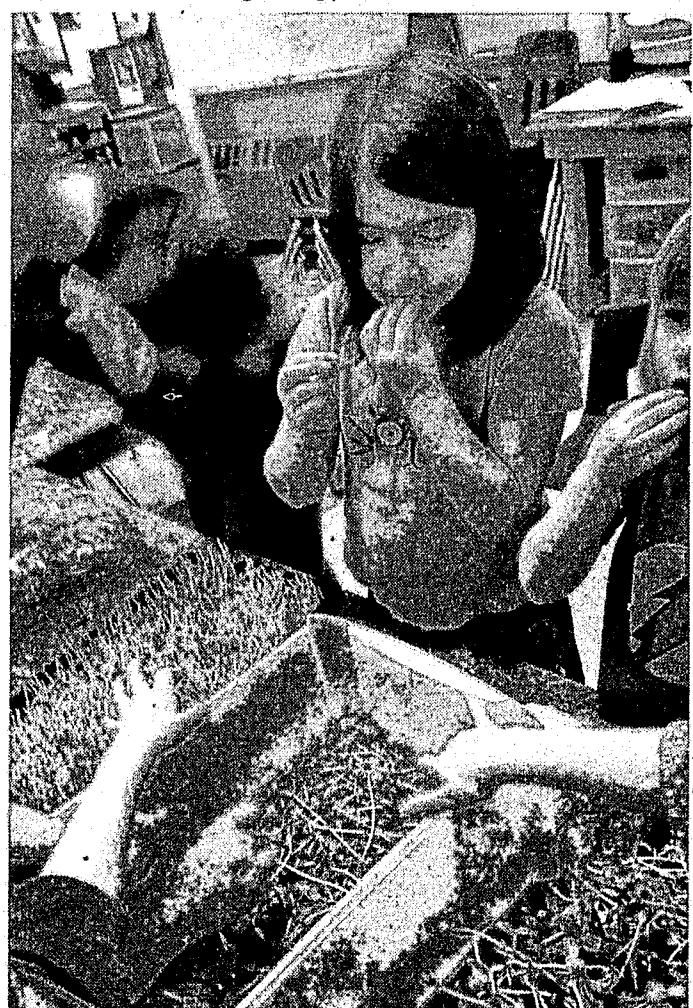
Maebrrie Hoff showing off a pine cone during a nature hike with the Wild and Wacky Club.



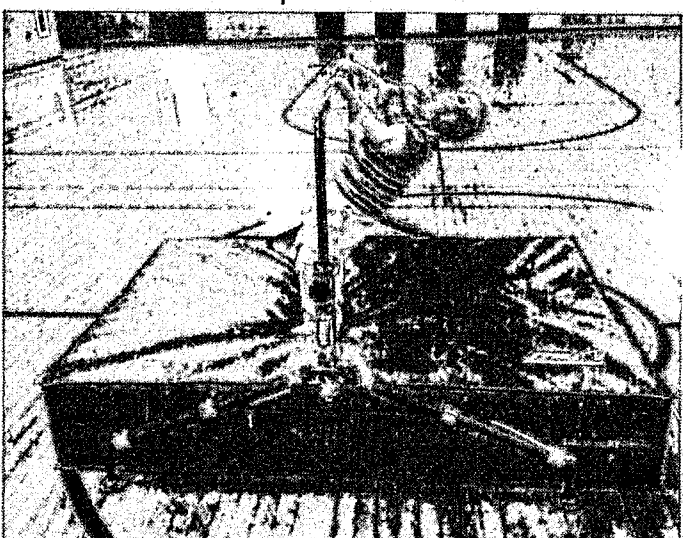
Jocelyn Nivus and Harrison Kimball feeling on top of the world!



Lucas Barstow, Gigi DeVivo, Skye Mills, Max Merrill, and Oliver Fredette prepare a human pyramid.



Kamilah Villanueva, Gavin Mitchell, and Rosie Barstow trying pea shoots from Garden Club.



Oliver Fredette practicing his flips during gymnastics block!



Will Myers practicing his boarding skills on cardboard as Ryder Bailey, Kimball Coolidge, Makenzie Elliot, and Harrison Kimball patiently wait their turn



Playing a wildlife themed game with Regi.



Emma, Brianna, and Nyla examine a coyote pelt during Wildlife Week.



Elizabeth Marin builds a bridge using toothpicks and gumdrops.



Grady Kellogg builds a bridge during Engineering Week.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

District Exchange; Bethel Park, 23 Mason Street, Bethel. Hours: Monday 1 to 4 p.m., Thursday 4 to 6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Donations of gently-used clothing only accepted during open hours - No exceptions. FMI: 824-4090. Clothing may also be left at Northeast Bank, Main Street, Bethel Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Bethel Area Food Pantry; serving the residents of Albany, Andover, Bethel, East Bethel, West Bethel, Bryant Pond, Gilead, Greenwood, Hanover, Locke's Mills, Mason Township, Newry, Upton and Woodstock. The Food Pantry is open on the second Monday of each month from noon to 8 p.m. Anyone in need of food should come during those hours, without appointment. The Food pantry is located in the basement of the Nazarene Church, 16 Church Street, Bethel, by the side entrance on Park Street.

Thursday, March 20

Sunrise Hike; 6 a.m., Bald Pate Mountain parking lot, Route 107, South Bridgton. Wear appropriate warm clothing and boots. Bring water, snacks, a headlamp and snowshoes. This moderate hike will include a 300-foot elevation gain and take approximately two hours round trip. Hot cocoa and snacks will be offered after the hike.

Community Supper; 6 p.m., Wilkins Community House, Waterford. Bring your best dish and come visit your winter-bound neighbors.

Clarinets for Conservation Quartet; 7:30 p.m., Gorham Congregational Church, 143 Main Street, Gorham, N.H. The performance will feature classical and contemporary works for clarinet quartet by Jean Francaix, Alfred Uhl, and Brett Wery. FMI: 603-326-3242 or www.musicgnw.org.

Friday, March 21

Health Insurance Information Day; 12 to 4 p.m., Bethel Rite Aid. Stop by to ask questions, pick up brochures, and pick up giveaways. Crystal Fitch, LSW and Emily Owen and Sara Tisherman of AmeriCorps will be present to answer questions about saving money on healthcare and schedule appointments for help with Health Insurance Marketplace enrollment.

Piano recital by Tamara Poddubnaya and Ilya Ischenko; at Gould Academy's McLaughlin auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Free admission.

Saturday, March 22

Farm Pond Construction/Trout Stocking Workshop; Oxford County Extension Center, Olson Road, South Paris. Presentation by Candace Gilpatrick, NRCS Agricultural Engineer at 10 a.m. Presentation by Sonny Pierce of Shy Beaver Hatchery at 12:30 p.m. Workshop fee: \$10 (lunch included). FMI/registration: jean.federico@me.nadnet.net or 743-5789, ext. 111.

Peter T. Haines Memorial Baked Bean and Ham Supper; 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Bethel Lodge, Chapman Street. \$8/adults, \$4/children.

Jones Dance Band; 7 to 10 p.m., Legion Hall, Church Street, South Paris. Old fashioned dance music. Adults: \$5.

Sunday, March 23

Maniac Mountaineers; 2 p.m., Locke's Mills Town Hall. After a long, cold winter, get out of that cabin and kick your heels up. No charge, but donations for Town Hall repairs will be accepted.

Missionary Speaker/Potluck Supper; 5:30 p.m., West Parish Congregational Church, Bethel. Scott Couper will speak about his work in South Africa with a secondary school for African girls. Bring a dish to share for the potluck. Speaker to start at 6:15.

Monday, March 24

Essentials of College Planning for adults 19 and over; 10 a.m., Western Maine University and Community College Center, South Paris. FMI/Registration: 1-800-281-3703 or http://meoc.maine.edu. Free and open to the public.

Woodstock Town Meeting; 7 p.m., Woodstock Elementary School.

Wednesday, March 26

Community Supper (No Charge); 4:30 to 6 p.m., Bethel Alliance Church, 251 Walkers Mills Road (across from Telstar parking lot). FMI: 824-2289.

DASH Diet Workshop; 5:30 to 7 p.m., Ripley Medical

Building's Harper Conference Center, 193 Main Street, Norway. Presented by SMH dietitian, Pat Watson, this free workshop will provide information on the DASH Diet to lower high blood pressure. FMI/Registration: 743-1562 ext. 6896.

MLT Changing Nature Presentation; 7 p.m., University of Maine 4-H Camp, 17 Conservation Lane, Bryant Pond. Ryder Scott will offer a presentation on the "Changing Nature of Education for a Sustainable World." FMI: 824-3806.

Thursday, March 27

"Maine at Work" Performance; 7 p.m., Norway Memorial Library. Using historical characters, humor, little known facts, and contemporary material, playwright and actor David Greenham will explore the people and stories that have influenced how we think about jobs in Maine today. Following the performance David will engage the attendees in a lively discussion allowing audience members to share their thoughts. Free and open to the public. FMI: 743-5309 ext. 1 or www.norway.lib.me.us.

March 28 and 29

6th Annual Dumont Cup; Sunday River. Come check out the action as top pro freeskiers defend the cup against the best amateurs from across North America. This year's event moves to the new T72 terrain park trail for an even better course. FMI: www.dumontcup.com.

March 28, 29 and 30

OHSCBS "Seussical" Performances; Mark S. Eastman Auditorium at Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School, South Paris. Friday and Saturday: 7:30 p.m. Sunday: 1:30 p.m. Tickets: \$12/adults, \$10/seniors and students. Reserved seating tickets can be purchased at Books 'n Things, 430 Main Street, Norway or held at will-call (739-6200). Cat in the Hat is the Host and Horton the Elephant is the guide on a journey from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus to the World of the Whos, as a little boy with a big imagination proves that a person is a person no matter how small.

Saturday, March 29

Women's History Month Program; 2 p.m., Bethel Historical Society's Dr. Moses Mason House (14 Broad Street). Annette Vance Dorey will present an illustrated talk about the women featured in her book, "Miss Dr. Lucy" and Maine's Pioneering Female Physicians, 1850s-1920. Free and open to the public. Books will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

Jody Gaudreau Benefit; Mt. Abram. Bake sale: 3 to 5 p.m. Buffet dinner: 5 to 7 p.m. Tina Kelly Band: 8 p.m. to midnight (cover charge). Raffles throughout the day; 50/50 with drawing between 7 and 8 p.m. A portion of ticket and food sales will be donated to Gaudreau, who is being treated for cancer. FMI: LeeAnn at Mt. Abram (875-5000). To donate to bake sale or dinner, call Lori (357-9508).

Gilead Town Meeting; 7 p.m., Town Hall.

Jones Dance Band; 7 to 10 p.m., Legion Hall, Church Street, South Paris. Old fashioned dance music. Adults: \$5.

Sunday, March 30

SAD 44 Ski Free Day; Sunday River Ski Resort. Free lift ticket, free rental, free adult learn to ski/ride clinic. 50 percent food and beverage discount.

Tuesday, April 1

TMS PTA Meeting; 6 to 7:30 p.m., Telstar library.

Thursday, April 3

Urinary Gyn Health Presentation; 4:30 to 6 p.m., Bethel Congregational Church, 32 Church Street. Cathy Heffernan, CNM, MSN, will discuss bladder health and what can be done about it in her talk, "From Sneezes to Kegels - Issues with Urinary Gyn Health." Sponsored by To Your Health of Western Mountains Senior College. Public invited. Free admission. Light refreshments. FMI: Rosabelle Tift (824-2053).

Friday, April 4

Holy Savior School Benefit Auction; American Legion Hall, Rumford. Doors open at 5 p.m., auction begins at 6:30 with auctioneer Mark Prevost. Pub style food will be available starting at 5 p.m. Businesses or individuals wishing to make item or monetary donations to the auction may contact Sue Adley (364-4919), Judy Collette (364-5157) or Holy Savior School (364-2528).

TMS Fancy Dance; 7 to 10 p.m., Telstar cafeteria.

Saturday, April 5

Snow Valley Sno-Goers Annual Meeting/Potluck; 6 p.m. potluck supper followed by a 7 p.m. meeting at the clubhouse off Route 5 in Andover. All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share.

Sunday, April 6

Snowmobile Sledhead Mania; Mt. Abram. Registration: 7 a.m. Races: 9 a.m. General admission: \$7. Race Entry: \$30. A percentage of the proceeds will benefit the Make a Wish Foundation. Free parking, restaurant and lounge, warming area, door prizes, 50/50 raffles. Trophies and fun prizes. FMI: 890-9720.

Apron Tea; 2 p.m., Women's Literary Union, 19 Elm Street, Auburn. Norma Salway and Dotti Adams will host "The History of Vintage Aprons," sponsored by the CMMC Women's Hospital Association. This fundraising event will feature a collection of 50+ hand-made aprons. Light refreshments and tea will be served. Proceeds benefit the CMMC Cancer Immediate Needs Fund. Attendees are urged to bring any special aprons they might wish to display. FMI/reservations: June (782-6084).

Monday, April 7

Essentials of College Planning for adults 19 and over; 10 a.m., Western Maine University and Community College Center, South Paris. FMI/Registration: 1-800-281-3703 or http://meoc.maine.edu. Free and open to the public.

Socrates Café Meeting; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Waterford Library. Topic: Nuclear Power? Moderator: Jim Kearney. Light refreshments and coffee provided. FMI: 583-6957 or 583-6589.

Wednesday, April 9

Bethel Senior Citizens Meeting; 11 a.m., Locke's Mills Union Church. Menu: Casseroles, breads, salad, soup and other choices. \$10 per person. Reservations must be made before April 1 by calling Arlene Lowell (824-2877).

Thursday, April 10

Small Business Shoe Box Party; 3 to 5 p.m., White Mountains Community College, 2020 Riverside Drive, Berlin, N.H. Free seminar to help small business owners get started with a system to keep records sorted, organized and up to date. FMI/registration: Joyce Presby (603-717-5457 or jpresby@ccsnh.edu).

April 12 and 13

Wilderness First Aid (SOLO); UMaine 4H Camp and Learning Center. Cost: \$200 (includes lunch and materials). Register before April 4 by calling 207-665-2068.

Sunday, April 13

Letter B Notch Riders Meeting; 9 a.m., the Upton House.

Upton Historical Society Meeting; 3 p.m., the Upton House.

Wednesday, April 16

WES Curriculum Fair/Art Show; 6 to 7:30 p.m., Woodstock Elementary School.

April 26 and 27

Shooting Sports Instructor Training; UMaine 4H Camp and Learning Center. Cost: \$65 (includes meals and lodging). Training begins at 6 p.m. Friday and concludes at 1 p.m. Sunday. Commuters welcome. Offering archery, rifle, shotgun, hunting/wildlife training. FMI/Registration: 207-665-2068.

Monday, April 28

Essentials of College Planning for adults 19 and over; 10 a.m., Western Maine University and Community College Center, South Paris. FMI/Registration: 1-800-281-3703 or http://meoc.maine.edu. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, April 30

MLT Changing Nature Presentation; Dr. George Jacobson, Maine State Climatologist, will speak on the "Changing Nature of Climate." FMI: 824-3806.

Saturday, May 10

2nd Annual Motorcycle Swap Meet; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Dixfield American Legion. 8X10-Lot \$25, Inside tables \$15. FMI: E. Ellis (357-6437) or C. Green (645-9640).

Church Services

ALBANY

Congregational Church - Hunts Corner, 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship and Sunday School at 9 a.m.; Pastor Eddie Gammon. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at the home of Fernand Corriveau.

ANDOVER

First Congregational Church - Rev. Jane Rich. Sunday morning worship 10 to 11 a.m. followed by brunch. All welcome. FMI: 392-3761.

Calvary Bible Church - Pastor Ken Wagstaff; Morning worship 10:45 to noon. Wednesday prayer meeting, 6:30 p.m. Route 5, South Andover. 392-1121.

BETHEL

Bethel Alliance Church - 251 Walker's Mills Road, Rev. Kevin Belling, Senior Pastor and Nicholas Lutz, Youth Pastor. Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School for adults, teens and children; 10 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery care and Children's Church are available); 4:30-6 p.m. Kidz Klub (4 yrs-5th grade); 4:30-6:30 p.m. High School "Hang-Out" (location varies). Thursdays: 5-7 p.m. Middle and High School Youth Group. FMI: 207-824-2289.

Bethel Church of the Nazarene - 16 Church Street, Bethel. Sunday School, 9:30 (for all ages), Pastor Peter Carter. The third Sunday of every month at 9 a.m. breakfast open to the public, no charge. Morning Worship 10:30. Wednesday evening 6 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study. FMI, transportation or prayer please contact Gerry Shimamura 824-7289 or Juanita Korhonen 665-2528.

Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Savior, Our Lady of the Snows - 265 Walkers Mills Road (Route 26), Fr. Gregory Dube may be reached at the parish office 364-4556. Saturday Mass, 6 p.m. Announcements. FMI: 824-2933.

West Parish Congregational - Church Street. Rev. Richard Bennett. Sundays: 10 a.m. worship and Sunday School Sept.-May. Tuesdays: 8 a.m., informal Prayer Group with coffee in the Chapel. All are welcome. First Wednesday of the month: 8 a.m., Mens' Breakfast Group. Entrance in rear of church. All events open to everyone. This is an open and affirming congregation. FMI: 824-2689.

United Methodist - 79 Main Street. Pastor Carol Stevens. Sunday worship service 9 a.m. FMI: 824-0797.

West Bethel Union - Rev. John Williams. Morning worship and 9 a.m. Sunday School. FMI: 836-3533.

Pleasant Valley Bible Pastor Dave Fraher. Sunday Services: Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Worship Service, 10 a.m. Ladies Bible study Tuesday, 2:30 p.m. Midweek Bible study and prayer, Wednesday 6 p.m. Awana Club Fridays 3:30 to 5 p.m. (Cubbies ages 3/4; Sparks Grades K-2; children may take bus from school). FMI: 836-2828.

Seventh Day Adventist Fellowship: Meets at the Nazarene Church on Saturdays, on Church Street in Bethel. Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m. FMI: 357-7814.

EAST STONEHAM

Oxford County United Parish Churches in Stoneham and North Waterford - Services at 10 a.m. at the North Waterford Congregational Church (UCC), located on the Five Kezars Road, off Routes 35 & 37, opposite Melby's Market. (North Waterford and East Stoneham Congregational Churches will hold their joint services in the church on Route 5 in East Stoneham during the winter months. Choir practice 9 a.m., followed by Bible Study at 9:15 a.m.)

LOCKE'S MILLS

Locke Mills Union - Pastor Sondra Withey. Sunday

Morning Service and Sunday School, 9 to 10 a.m. Choir practice at the church every Friday at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. 875-3355

NORWAY/PARIS

First Church of Christ, Scientist - Sunday service 10 a.m., Wednesday Testimony service 7:30 p.m. 5 Morrill Rd/Rt. 118 (catercorner to Norway Country Club), Norway. Call 207-890-9944 FMI or ride.

Trinity Lutheran Church - Route 117, South Paris. Pastor Ray Mitchell. Sunday morning service 9 a.m. (summer) with coffee, refreshments and good fellowship. Bible Study, Wednesdays 7 p.m.

North Paris Federation - Morse Hill Road, North Paris. Sunday

Service 8 a.m. Singspiration third Sunday each month alternating with West Paris Baptist Church at 7 p.m. FMI: 689-8000.

Oxford Hills Friends (Quakers) - Sunday worship 9:30 a.m. at HOPE Ripley Center, High Street, South Paris across the park from the Post Office. FMI: call Ursula Brandon at 665-2880 or Sue Reilly at 966-2012

Christ Episcopal Church - 35 Paris St., Norway. Services Sunday at 11 a.m. and Wednesday at 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist. 743-6782; e-mail christch@megalink.net.

First Baptist Church of Paris - On the Common at the top of Paris Hill. 10:30 a.m. worship service. Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Coffee hour follows the service. Fellowship lunch held the first Sunday of each month following worship. Pastor Ron Blake. FMI 743-2491.

St. Catherine's - Saturday 4 p.m. Vigile Mass; Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass. FMI 743-2606.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Norway - 11 a.m. worship. (Sept. - June) Child care is provided. Religious education classes 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. FMI 743-2828.

M
A
R2
02
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1
4

Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

CODED RIDDLE

Change each letter to the one that comes immediately BEFORE it in the alphabet to find a riddle and its answer.

Here's a copy of the alphabet to guide you:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

IPX EP UIFZ DPVOU NVGGJOT JO

B DBNQ LJUDIFO? UIFZ IBWF

B SPMM DBMM.

For more puzzle fun, go to www.brainzzles.com



SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Shake
QURVIE

Assist
SEVER

Outfit
FISHRUN

Invent
CARETE

TODAY'S WORD

"I think we better skip any item where it says 'Price upon _____'."

Super Crossword

FOR APARTMENT 5A

ACROSS

1 Nylon woven, so that tears won't spread
8 Disputed Asian region
15 Arrive, as the night
20 Before
21 Embrace, as a cause
22 Alkaline compound
23 1972 Glen Campbell hit
25 Starbucks' menu item
26 Store safely
27 Supper crumb
28 Day, to José
29 Vented vociferously
30 Capital in the Andes
32 "Oh, woe is me!"
35 Be adjacent to
39 African outings
41 1999-2007 House speaker
42 Atlantic-Pacific linkup
44 Fed. loan agency for mom-and-pops

DOWN

46 Bygone U.S. gas name
47 Capital of the Republic of China
48 Brand of hot sauce
50 Bro's counterpart
52 Three-note chord
54 Light, playful passages
56 Lilted syllable
59 1993 Texas standoff city
61 Clothing edges
64 Actress who starred in "Alien vs. Predator"
66 Indifferent
68 Gens.
70 URL opener
71 Politician
72 "Adios!"
75 Labor Day's mo.
77 Hens 78-
78 Brood, with "on"
79 Utter vocally
81 A Disney princess
83 Cola, e.g.

ACROSS

3 Pub quantity
4 Arty NYC area
5 Dragged, fishing net
6 Mel of the old Giants
7 D.C.'s river
8 Clark of the Daily Planet
9 Invite
10 Healthful resort
11 Accord and Civic
12 Part of MTV
13 Singer Chris
14 Apartment, e.g.: Abbr.
15 Soups' go-wilts
16 Radiates
17 Lotas
18 Crying
19 Can't help but
24 Yasir of the PLO
29 Stranded cell stuff
31 Bible book after Song of Solomon
32 Saudis, say
33 Purple bloomers
34 "I've got it!"
35 On-target
36 Sheep
37 Price per pound, e.g.

DOWN

84 Southern U.S. forage plants
87 Permeate with a spirit
90 Memo start
93 —pah
94 Cry of magic
96 Lacking any head
99 Ring-shaped ornament
100 Cages
101 California coastal city
104 Writer Seton
106 Dahl of film
107 Millions of years
108 Extra-big tub
109 Brief sleeps
113 Exhausting
114 Gomez's mother in an old sitcom
119 Slowly, to a conductor
120 Northern and southern lights
121 Disentangle
122 Hair lock
123 Trendy
124 Specialty brew

DOWN

38 Certain plant anchor
40 Dofia — County, New Mexico
43 Travis Tritt's "Tell — Was 'Dreaming'"
44 Odors
45 Sodium — (cleanser)
49 Bygone Iranian ruler
50 It's between fa and la
51 "Space — a premium"
53 Decompose
55 Frank of satirical rock
56 17th-century London theatre
57 Pealed
58 Hill builders
59 Toddlers' cries
60 Jai —
62 Tiny country in Europe
63 Alpine event
65 Stuff oozing down a trunk
67 Burkina —
69 Blizzard fall
73 Street guide
74 Live-in nanny
76 Postwar pact
80 Winger or Messing

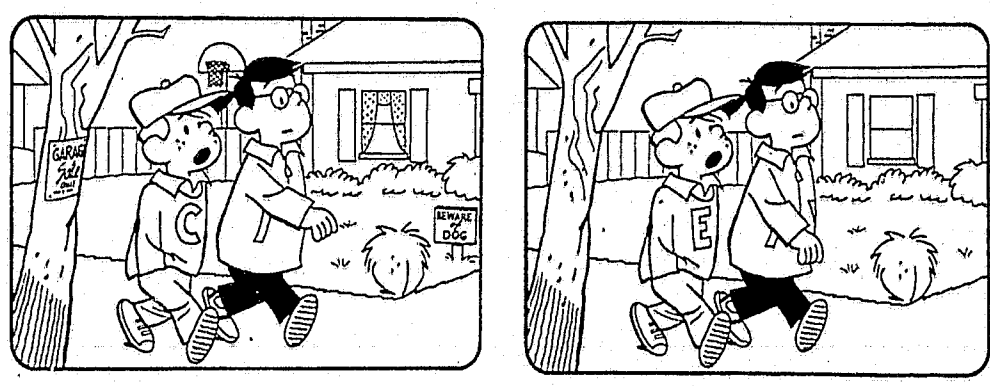
DOWN

82 Neighbor of Ill. and Mich.
83 Omens
85 Missile path
86 Respectful deep bow
88 Caterer's dispenser
89 — Vegas
90 Blitzkrieg
91 Less dense
92 Evidence of sunning
93 Off — tangent
95 Mythical horse-man
97 "It takes two" dances
98 "Honest" Lincoln
99 Is unable to
102 Air anew
103 Sbs' mates
105 Tennis great Agassi
108 Ming piece
110 Very little, as of salve
111 Get concrete results on?
112 Peter Pan pursuer
114 Moo goo — pan
115 Alcohol-free
116 Bad, to Henri
117 — and all
118 Camera type, in brief

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



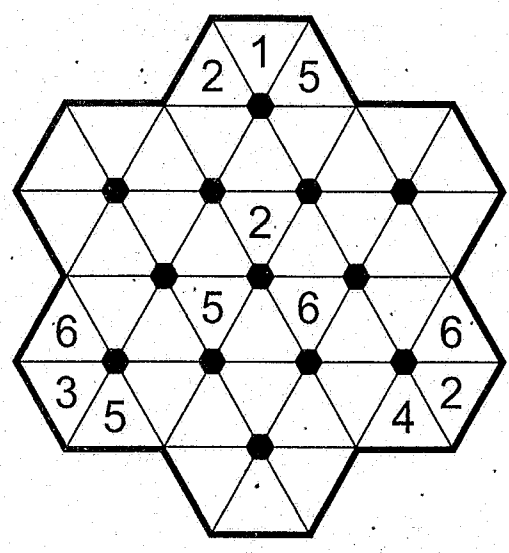
Differences:
1. Poster is missing.
2. Letter on shirt is different.
3. Basketball hoop is missing.
4. Arm is moved.
5. Curtains are missing.
6. "Beware of Dog" sign is missing.

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

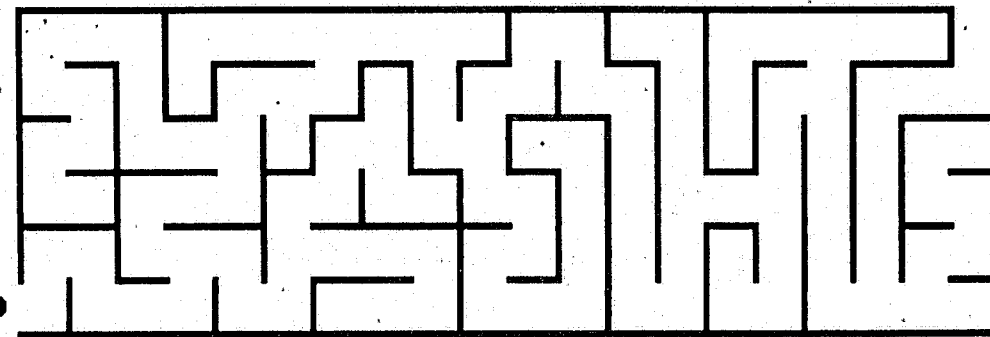
There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the number 1-6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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Kids' Maze

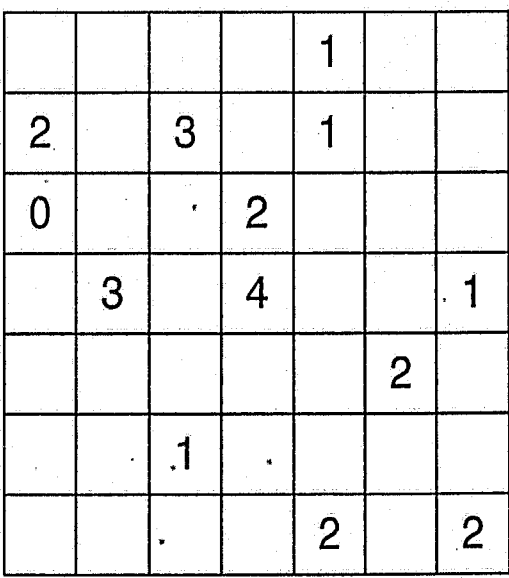


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Star★Map

By Linda Thistle

Draw a star in exactly 10 of the empty squares in the diagram so that each numbered square accurately indicates how many immediately adjacent squares (horizontally, vertically or diagonally) contain a star.



DIFFICULTY: ★★

★Easy ★★Moderate ★★★YOWZA!

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Kids' Maze Solution



SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word:
1. Quiver; 2. Serve; 3. Furnish; 4. Create

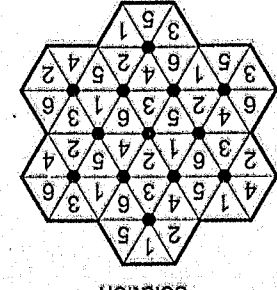
Star★Map

ANSWERS:



SNOWFLAKES

How do they count muffs in a camp kitchen?
Answer: 4



M
A
R

2
0

2
0
1
4

Oxford County Dems announce candidates

The Oxford County Democrats are proud to announce a terrific group of candidates qualifying for the June Primary ballot, with an excellent balance of gender, age, background, fields of employment, and past experience and service.

Incumbents who are seeking reelection include Rumbold millworker Senator John Patrick who is running for his third term in the Senate, in the district including much of central and northern Oxford County as well as Livermore and Livermore Falls. Patrick also served in the House

of Representatives. He chairs the Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development Committee and serves on the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

House members seeking reelection include Rep. Matt Peterson of Rumbold and Rep. Helen Rankin of Hiram both running for their fourth term. They have held down prestigious seats on the Health and Human Services and Education Committees respectively, since being elected in 2008. Rep. Lisa Villa of Harrison is seeking her second term, serving on the Judiciary

Committee. Her new district includes Denmark, and her current district includes Lovell, Sweden and Stow.

Two individuals with municipal experience are seeking the seats left vacant by term limits. Malcolm Gill, chair of the Dixfield selectboard, is running for the seat currently represented by Rep. Sheryl Briggs of Mexico. Gill is a retired teacher and coach. Robert Kirchherr, chair of the Paris selectboard, is running for the seat currently represented by Rep. Terry Hayes of Buckfield. Kirchherr is a retired ed-

ucator who worked at both SAD 17 and for Central Maine Community College. Rep. Hayes is a candidate for the open County Commissioner seat in District 3.

Dennise Whitley of Norway is seeking the house seat for Norway, Waterford, West Paris and Sweden. She has a distinguished career in healthcare, having worked for area hospitals and most recently for the American Heart Association where she dealt with legislative efforts. James Bradley of Mechanic Falls is running in the district that includes Oxford and Ot-

isfield. He is employed at USM.

Rose Rogers-Wells of Brownfield is running for the State Senate in the southern district including the Bridgton, Fryeburg and Norway/Paris areas. She is a nurse, employed at the Fryeburg Healthcare Center and is especially interested in healthcare as well as in the regional economy.

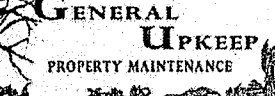
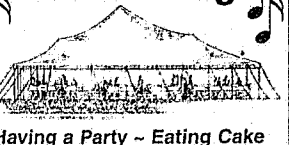
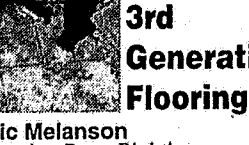
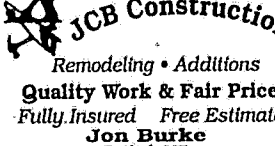
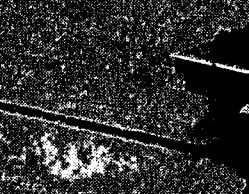
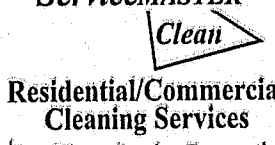
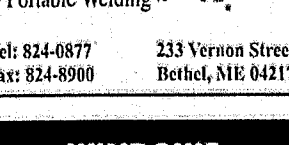
Callie Pecunies of Albany Township is running for open Bethel area House District 117. She has worked for Sunday River, currently as a realtor, for 18 years, and is running for a seat that includes the

area from Stow to Eustis. She and her husband Dave have two children in local schools and she is interested in education, healthcare and the economy.

County officials seeking reelection include Wayne Gallant of Rumbold for Sheriff, Roy Gedat of Norway for Treasurer, and Patricia Shearman of Norway as Registrar of Deeds East. All have earned bipartisan respect for their service for the county and hope to continue to serve.

For further information on the Oxford County Democrats visit www.oxforddems.org.

Your Guide to Area Services

AUTO REPAIR Berlin City Auto Group = easy Rhino Lining Oil Undercoating Paintless Dent Repair 1-800-795-2438 x314911 Berlin City Collision Center 545 Main Street Gorham, NH	COPYING COPIES 15¢ each COLOR 75¢ each The Bethel Citizen 19 Main St., Bethel • 824-2444 (behind the Town Office)	HANDYMAN Bob's Home Repair  • General Repairs • Light Carpentry and Electrical • Sheetrock repair • Painting • Winterization and other services for Camps and Vacation Homes Free Estimates Fully Insured Small Jobs are Welcome Serving Bethel and surrounding areas 207-836-2854	KITCHEN COUNTERTOPS STARMARK CABINETRY  Free Design Consultations Free Estimates • Quality Kitchens WESTERN MAINE SUPPLY CO. Bethel 824-2139 • 1-800-858-2139 westernmainesupply.com	PROPERTY CARE GENERAL UPKEEP PROPERTY MAINTENANCE  Maine Source Construction LLC • Excavation/Landscaping • Road Maintenance • Snow Removal/Sanding • Cleaning Services • Year-Round Caretaking • Remodeling & New Construction Danielle: 357-1753 • Jon: 357-1752 Upton: (207) 533-2021 www.generalupkeep.com www.mainesourceconstruction.com	TENT RENTAL OLSON'S TENT RENTAL Theme Song  Having a Party - Eating Cake If you don't have an Olson's Tent You're making a Big Mistake 20 x 40 \$200 • 30 x 50 \$450 (within reasonable distance) (207) 875-5765 • Bethel
CARPENTRY CARPENTRY Dale W. Buck New Construction Remodeling, Cabinetry (207) 357-3840 • 42 Vernon St., Bethel	ELECTRICIANS ALLIED ELECTRIC  Licensed and Fully Insured For all your Residential and Commercial needs. FREE ESTIMATES Todd Malley 595-2761	Need A Handyman? To fix leaking faucets, toilets, Broken this-n-thats... Clean a room, closet, windows, the whole house... Organize your spaces... CALL GLORIA 207-212-2823 	MASONRY NEIL DONOVAN Masonry CALL 824-2113 BRICK • BLOCK • STONEWORK	PROPERTY CARE 	TREE SERVICE Rice Tree Service  Sheldon Rice Maine Licensed Arborist Member Maine Arborist Association Complete Tree Service • Removals Pruning • Chipping Stump Grinding • Lot Clearing (207) 583-2474 Waterford, ME Fully Insured
SUNDAY RIVER INTERIORS FINISH CARPENTRY, CABINETS, COUNTER TOPS, FURNISHING, CABINET PACKAGE INSTALLATION SERVICE. SEE OUR AD ON CRAIGSLIST AND CALL RICK AT 207-832-1377	FLOORING 3rd Generation Flooring  Eric Melanson Flooring Done Right! custom tile floors and showers hardwood • vinyl • carpet eric@thirdgenerationflooring.com thirdgenerationflooring.com flooringinmaine.com (207) 890-2130 free estimates • insured Bethel, Maine	HEALTHCARE Bethel Family Health Center  BOE • Board Certified in Family Practice 32 Railroad St., Bethel 824-2193 • 800-287-2292	PAINTING Interior / Exterior Spraying Free Estimates  Mark Hindman P.O. Box 641 Bethel, Maine 04217 (207) 357-0933 If it doesn't move... I'll paint it!	PROPERTY RENTALS Four Seasons Property Management & Rentals  Specializing in Vacation Rentals in the Greater Bethel Area Units Ranging From One Bedroom Condos to 5 Bedroom Luxury Homes. www.FourSeasonsRealtyMaine.com 207-824-3776	VACATION RENTALS Slopeside Rentals.net  Cozy & clean slopeside Condos at Sunday River. Indoor heated pool, fun for the whole family! 207-824-2920
CONTRACTORS JCB Construction  Remodeling • Additions Quality Work & Fair Prices Fully Insured • Free Estimates Jon Burke Bethel, ME cell: (207) 452-0844		HEATING Dead River Company  Dead River Company 33 Prospect Street, Rumbold, ME 04276 Ph: 207-364-3751 • 1-800-339-3751 Fax: 207-369-0154 www.deadriverv.com	PARTY SUPPLIES For All Your Party Needs... Balloons • Helium Tank Rentals Decorations • Party Items & Supplies Rumbold Rd., Rt. 2 Bethel, Maine 207-824-4999 Open Tues. - Sat. weparty@megalin.net	ROOFING ROOFING Gil Bolduc Specializing in colored standing seam metal roofs 30+ Years Experience • Fully Insured 207-364-7845	WASTE & RECYCLING D&E Sanitation Service 299 Walkers Mills Road Bethel, ME 04217 (207) 824-8320 Mon. - Fri. 8 - 4
CHIMNEY CLEANING PINCKLETINK CHIMNEY SERVICE  Your CSIA Certified Sweep 207-388-2712 www.pinckletink.com	FLORIST Florist Greenhouse Garden Center  836-3276 Tuesday-Sunday pookfarm.com • WE DELIVER Pook Corner Farm Greenhouses & Florist		PICTURE FRAMING Artistic Endeavors LLC Frame Shop & Gallery 171 Main St., Bethel 824-3273 artisticendeavors-llc.com Open Wed-Sat 12noon-4pm and by Appointment	ROOFING DOUG ZINCHUK ROOFING  New & Re-Shingling FREE ESTIMATES FULLY INSURED 20 Years Experience 207-824-2335	WELDING YOUNG'S Machine & Welding  CUSTOM: ~ Machining ~ ~ Fabricating ~ ~ Welding ~ ~ Portable Welding ~ Tel: 824-0877 233 Vernon Street Fax: 824-8900 Bethel, ME 04217
CLEANING SERVICES ServiceMASTER Clean  Residential/Commercial Cleaning Services Fire, Water, Smoke, Restoration Services, along with Carpet/Upholstery Cleaning ServiceMASTER of Lakes Region 207-539-4452 • 1-800-244-7630 Oxford, Maine	GIFT BASKETS 	HEATING EQUIPMENT BROOKS BROS., INC.  Main Street Bethel, Maine 824-2158	PRINTING Your Local Source for Custom Printing! Time to Order Rack Cards full-color card \$131.70 plus tax for 500 \$148.05 plus tax for 1000 The Bethel Citizen 19 Main Street, Bethel 824-2444 • 800-922-6397	STORAGE SELF STORAGE  Alder River 369-0211 24-hour Fire & Security System	WINDOWS THE BEAUTIFUL WAY TO INSULATE.  Andersen Pella Shield® windows offer you: • High Performance Insulating Glass • Complete weatherstripping • Insulating wood core • Low upkeep vinyl exteriors WESTERN MAINE SUPPLY CO. BETHEL, MAINE 824-2139
	Gift Baskets Shop locally and help support our community Premade or Custom Made We can ship anywhere in the country! AND the Best Fudge in Western Maine! MAINE LINE PRODUCTS Maine Line Products (next to the town office) 23 Main Street • Bethel Maine 207-824-2522 Maine Line Products Marketplace Route 26 • Locke Mills, Maine 207-875-2522	INSURANCE SUMMIT Insurance & Financial Services LLC  RONALD J. THERIAULT Registered Representative 28 YEARS EXPERIENCE (207) 364-7285 fax: (207) 514-8123 612 PINE STREET, RUMBOLD SECURITIES OFFERED THROUGH FIRST ASSET FINANCIAL INC. (TAP) 110 E. BROWN AVE. BANGOR, ME 05402-5050. MEMBER FINRA/SIPC • QUALITY INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH FIVE	STORAGE SELF STORAGE  Alder River 369-0211 24-hour Fire & Security System	STORAGE SELF STORAGE  Alder River 369-0211 24-hour Fire & Security System	STORAGE SELF STORAGE  Alder River 369-0211 24-hour Fire & Security System

M
A
R

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2
0
1
4

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale

Hospitality Property in the White Mountains of NH; Auction: April 10; For details & terms, visit www.tranzon.com/AP14020; Tranzon Auction Properties, 93 Exchange Street, Portland, ME 04101; 207-775-4300; Thomas W. Saturley, NH RE Lic. #11528, NH AC #2495

HOT TUB: used condition. Electric, never used outdoors, nice shape. Also slate pool table. Located in Bethel area. 603-552-3295, 603-247-2081 cell.

MINK STOLE. Asking \$150. 665-2126.

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY AT 4PM

Privacy Hedges-Spring Blowout Sale 6" Aborvitae (cedar) Regular \$129 Now \$59 Beautiful, Nursery Grown. FREE Installation/FREE delivery 518-536-1367 www.lowcost-trees.com Limited Supply.

For Sale

SAWMILLS from only \$4897-MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill-Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. FREE Info / DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1363 Ext.300N

Help Wanted



Bethel Dunkin Donuts is now accepting applications for Part-time/Full-time positions. Health and Dental benefits available for full-time employees. Please apply within or call Natasha at 783-0408

\$500 SIGN ON BONUS! Dedicated run for class A CDL drivers living in Maine. Auburn, Lewiston, Portland, southern Maine great areas. Hirschbach 888-474-0729 www.drive4hmi.com

Help Wanted

Exp. Reefer Drivers: GREAT PAY/ Freight lanes from Presque Isle, ME, Boston-Lehigh, PA 800-277-0212 or driveforprime.com

Services

BENNETT'S UPHOLSTERY - Home and office furniture, antique and modern. Call for free estimates, quality workmanship at very reasonable prices. 824-2336

RECENTLY RETIRED RN seeking part-time private duty/home care. References available. 207-415-5618.

HOT NEWS TIP?
Call us at **1-800-9BC-NEWS**
The Bethel Citizen

STORAGE UNITS, BETHEL: New 7'x12' w/7x7' loft, \$70/mo. 5'x7' w/5x4' loft, \$40/mo. 603-552-3295, or cell: 603-247-2081.

Wanted

Antiques/collectibles: Estate/one item. FREE estimates. Call Mike or Louanne RUMFORD CENTER ANTIQUES, INN AND AUCTIONS. 1384 RT. 2 Rumford Center, (207) 364-8607, or thib53@roadrunner.com

Business Space

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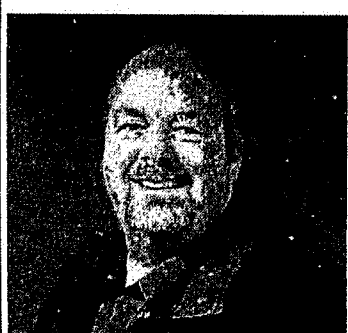
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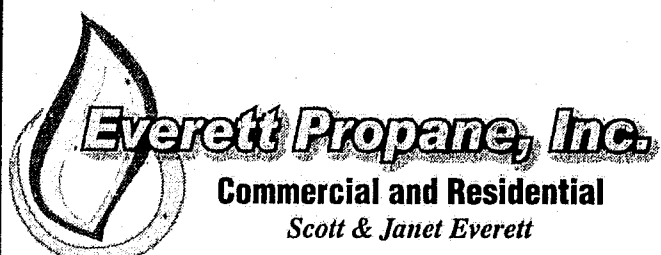
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The Bethel Citizen

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SPRING ON THE ROAD



TIPS ON BUYING A PREOWNED VEHICLE

Men and women purchase a preowned vehicle for a variety of reasons. Preowned vehicles are often a better bargain than a brand new car right off the lot, and will likely cost less to insure, making it an even bigger bargain. In addition, many manufacturers and dealers have recognized the growing appeal of preowned vehicles and, as a result, offer warranties, something that was unheard of as recently as a decade ago. But buying a preowned vehicle is still a nerve-racking process for some consumers, who do doubt recall the horror stories of yesteryear when previously owned vehicles were sold as-is

and the risk of buying a lemon was enough to scare consumers away. That risk has dwindled considerably, but there are still some things prospective buyers can do to ensure the process of buying a preowned vehicle is less stressful.

Research the vehicle you want to buy.

The Internet has made it easier than ever before to conduct research regarding certain vehicles. In a relatively short period of time, consumers can learn about a vehicle's standard features, safety records

and warranty information, and may even find opinions about the vehicle online from past or current owners of the same model. Owner opinions might be especially valuable, as owners might shed light on any mechanical issues you might not be able to glean from other sources.

Determine your price range.

Settling on a price range is an important part of the process when buying a preowned vehicle. If you will be financing the vehicle, then you likely won't save as much on insurance as if you buy the vehicle outright. That's because lending institutions typically mandate that a vehicle be fully insured while it's being financed. If your insurance is going to be as high as it would be to purchase a new vehicle, then you might want to make a larger down payment so your monthly payment is lower. A preowned vehicle is likely

to need more immediate maintenance than a brand new car, so keep that in mind when figuring out a price range you can be comfortable with.



Find a reputable seller.

Working with a seller you're comfortable with can make the process of buying a preowned vehicle a lot less stressful. Private sellers tend to sell preowned vehicles at the most reasonable prices, and buyers are often a little more at ease because they don't feel as

pressured with a private seller as they might at a dealership. However, dealerships might offer a greater sense of security, as their preowned vehicles are now typically certified and backed by warranties.

Test drive the vehicle.

It might seem simple, but consumers have the right to test drive a preowned vehicle just like they would a brand new car on the lot at a dealership. In fact, the test-drive is perhaps more important with a preowned vehicle than a new vehicle. A new vehicle will likely feel good no matter what on a test-drive, but test-driving a preowned vehicle may reveal certain issues. When test-driving, take the vehicle on a long enough ride to accelerate from a stop, get a feel for the vehicle's visibility, braking, cornering, and ability to climb hills, and see how the vehicle drives on the highway. The ride should be long enough so you can get a

true feel for how the vehicle drives, and you should pay attention to any noises along the way, such as noises coming from the engine or any creaks, rattling and squeaks that tend to be commonplace with older vehicles.

Don't be afraid to negotiate.

Preowned vehicles may have a suggested price attached to them, but that price is entirely contingent on the condition of the vehicle and it's certainly open to negotiation. This is true whether you are buying from a dealership or a private seller. If the seller refuses to negotiate, you can always walk away and continue your search. Buying a preowned vehicle is a lot less stressful than in decades past, and buyers who do their homework can find the right deal if they stay patient.

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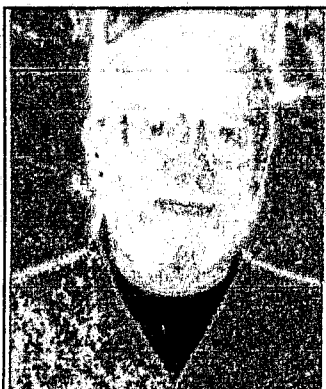
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Obituaries



RODNEY H. MCALLISTER

Rodney H. McAllister died Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at the Maine Veterans Home in South Paris. He was born February 10, 1929 in Lovell, the son of Albert G. and Elna (Ring) McAllister. He lived in Lovell, Stoneham, Bethel, and Albany growing up. He received his education at Gould Academy.

Rodney proudly served his country during the Korean War in the U.S. Army. He married the former Lelia Swan on Aug. 31, 1957. He was most proud of the home he built on the East Bethel Road where they resided for many years. Rodney worked for many years at the Ecco Wood Mill in Locke's Mills. He was a 50 year member of the Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Locke's Mills, and a member of the Bethel Alliance Church.

Family was very important to Uncle Rod; his favorite times were spent at family gatherings, cook-outs and holidays. He is survived by siblings Earl McAllister of Williston, Fla., Alberta and husband Edward White of Albany, Elna and husband Irving Hale of Denmark; many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Peter T. Haines Memorial Baked Bean and Ham Supper
March 22
4:30-6:30pm
Bethel Lodge
Chapman Street, Bethel
\$8 Adults - \$4 Children
FMI: Todd Davis
357-1901

He was predeceased by his wife Lelia McAllister, a sister-in-law Vivian McAllister and parents Albert and Elna McAllister.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the nurses and staff of the Maine Veterans Home for the wonderful care given to Rodney during his time there. A special thank you to his niece, Barbara Hooper, who checked on him daily to brighten his day. Online condolences may be shared with his family at www.chandlerfunerals.com.

Funeral Services will be held at the Bethel Alliance Church in Bethel at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 22, with interment to be held later in the spring. A gathering of remembrance will be held following the service at the Bethel Alliance Church.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Maine Veterans Home, 477 High Street, South Paris, Maine 04281 Music Program for Alzheimer's Unit. Arrangements are under the care of Chandler Funeral Homes & Cremation Service, 37 Vernon Street, Bethel.



JUDITH E. SMITH

Judith E. (Harrington) Smith left March 15, 2014 to continue on her journey. She was born in 1942 to Chester and Arlene Harrington in East Bethel.

She was raised on the family farm and enjoyed 4-H for many years. She earned many ribbons and money for surrounding fairs. This is also where she learned to cook and sew. She worked Gulick Camps on Sebago for two years and graduated from Gould Academy in 1960 and never looked

back.

Judy worked at several businesses in the Bethel area including Sunday River Ski Area, which she considered her second home, and the Bethel Inn. She met her first husband in Bethel and they moved the Doyer area where they started a hardwood business and had two beautiful children, Karen Sue and J. Scott.

After several years they parted ways and Judy moved to Bangor with her children. She took an interest in motorcycles and went on many enjoyable trips. She took a waitress job at the Chuck Wagon and this is where she met her second husband Dawson.

They leased a gas station in Brewer, bought a house in Hamden and had two children together, Sean and Dirk. After several years Dawson took a promotion at Gibb's oil and they moved their family to Standish. Judy worked at Sylvania and The Red Coach Grill. Five years later they decided to move to the Bucksport area where they managed Wenbelle Apartments, opened a lobster pound in Belfast and ran JD's Island Market on Verona. Judy also drove school bus for 20+ years in Bucksport, Blue Hill and Surry.

Judy enjoyed spending her time with friends and family skiing, snowmobiling, four wheeling and many other outdoor activities.

Judy leaves behind her mother, Arlene Harrington; her four sisters Esther, Wilma, Gloria and Dori; her husband Dawson of 40 years and four children Karen Lanpher and husband Don of Orland, J. Scott Saunders and wife Lisa of Corinth, Sean Smith of Hudson and Dirk Smith and wife Angela of Surry; nine grandchildren Devin, Jake, Jaimie, Jeremy, Morgan, Austin, Abby, Brayden and Josie and one great-grandchild Benelli.

The family would like to extend their appreciation to Beacon Hospice, namely Eden and Pam, amongst others for their kindness and support through her ordeal with multiple myeloma cancer. We would also like to express our gratitude to Cancer Care in Brewer. Liz Pizzarello and a special thank you for the loving, caring attention she received from her daughter Karen during her final weeks.

At Judy's request there will be no visiting hours or funeral. A celebration of

life will be held in her honor at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations may be sent in Judith's memory to Dr. Noopur Raje, Massachusetts General Hospital, Yawkey Center Suite 7B, Boston, Mass., 02114 to

Bethel Senior Citizens meet

The Bethel Senior Citizens Club met March 12 at the Crosstone Restaurant for their meeting and dinner with 35 members present. President Fran Head conducted the meeting, led the salute to the flag and offered a prayer. Reports were given by Becky Keen and Arlene Lowell.

The raffle was won by Mary Paine who also won the door prize.

The next meeting will be April 9 and the Locke's Mills Union Church. Meeting starts at 11 a.m. Reser-

get your statement check it over. Need help call police, Federal Trade Commission or SeniorsPlus; they may be able to help you. The do not call number is 1-888-382-1222.

Just a reminder, there are still some members who have not paid their dues (\$3). March birthdays are: Pauline Davis, Elizabeth Gilbert, Sharon Kaiser, Lise McLain, Alta Smith, Ruby Coolidge, Mary Hester and Pat Burnham.

Just a reminder, there are still some members who have not paid their dues (\$3). March birthdays are: Pauline Davis, Elizabeth Gilbert, Sharon Kaiser, Lise McLain, Alta Smith, Ruby Coolidge, Mary Hester and Pat Burnham.

Veteran of the Month



Gilman Whitman

Gilman Whitman has been selected as the veteran of the month at the Maine Veterans Home.

Gil was born on Oct. 26, 1926 in Portsmouth, N.H., and was raised in North Hampton, N.H. for several years before his family moved to Haverhill, Mass. After he was discharged he moved to Maine.

Gil graduated high school and then went on to the Essex Agricultural & Technical Institute in Haverhill. He took a three-year course majoring in floriculture and ornamental horticulture and got his degree in agriculture. During his last year of schooling, Gil was drafted into the Army. He petitioned the draft board to let him complete his studies and was given a four-month deferment. Gil graduated top of his class and received the Balfour award.

On March 1, 1945 Gil was then drafted in the U.S. Army during World War II. He served in the capacity of Provost Sergeant military police in the Philippines at the Leyte Detention Center on the island of Leyte guarding Japanese POWs. Gil received his orders direct from Gen.

McArthur to "receive, guard, maintain and process all Japanese POW prisoners in all actions in the South Pacific."

Gil received the Philippines Independence Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the WWII Victory Medal.

After his discharge, Gil moved to Bryant Pond, where he owned a 100-acre wood lot which he logged for the Oxford Paper Company. He opened Whitman's Variety Store in Locke's Mills.

Gil married Elizabeth Noyes on Oct. 23, 1946. Together they traveled all over.

Gil took interest in politics and was elected as chairman of the Town Republican Committee. He served as Deputy

Sheriff for Oxford County to act as a court officer during sessions of the Superior Court. In 1953 Gil opened the Maine Wildlife Den where he gave tours of his property for people to see live animals native to Maine. Gil also did taxidermy which he taught himself to do.

Gil's political interest continued; in 1958 he was elected to the State Representative 99th Legislature. He was in charge of the Natural Resources Committee. In 1961 he was re-elected to the 100th Maine Legislature and elected 3rd member of the House Leadership.

In 1961 Gil opened up a blacksmith and wood-working shop called the Yankee Craftsman. Over the years Gil's craftsmanship became well known so he renamed his shop to the Gilman Whitman Art Gallery. Gil made a lot of art work and sculptures throughout his life. He made the 14-foot crank phone sculpture that resides at the Remembrance Park in Bryant Pond.

Gil also had another passion and that was music. He and three other gentlemen formed a barbershop quartet called the Balladiers.

Gil enjoys reading, music, sketching and creating works of art.

Gil came to the Maine Veterans' Home in 2011 and resides on the Residential Care Unit.

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Pleasant Valley Bible Church
407 Flat Rd, West Bethel
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Girl Scout Cookie Sale!
Saturday, March 22
9am-5pm
at the
Bethel Foodliner

Woodstock Residents
The Annual Woodstock Town Meeting will be held on Monday March 26, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Woodstock Elementary School.

The Annual Town Reports will be available at the Town Office on Monday March 19th. The reports will be hand delivered in town beginning on Tuesday the 20th.

Just a reminder that Dog Licenses are now overdue. There will be an additional fee of \$15.00 per dog after January 31, 2012, and for dogs still not registered on or before April 1, 2012 there will be a charge of \$25.00.

Notice to Veterans
Veterans or Widows of Veterans age 62 or older, who may be eligible for property tax exemption under our Maine Laws, should be familiar with the requirement; where by, application for tax exemption must be made to the Assessors before April 1st of the year in which exemption is expected to begin.

Blind Exemption
Exemptions are available to persons determined to be blind within the definition provided by title 22, Chapter 959, who are receiving aid under that Chapter. Exemption must be filed with Assessors before April 1st of the year in which the exemption is expected to begin.

Assessor's Notice
In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 91-A, Section 34 R.S. 1954 Amend, all resident and non-resident property owners are hereby notified to bring into the Assessors, on or before April 1st, 2012, a true copy and perfect list of their estates, real or personal, of which they are possessed on the April 1st 2012, and be prepared to take oath on same. Any person who neglects to comply with this notice is barred his rights to make application to the assessors or the Assessment Board of Review for any abatement of his tax unless he satisfies the Assessors that he/she was unable to offer it at the appointed time.

Maine Homestead Exemption
If you are a legal resident of the State of Maine, have owned homestead property in Maine for at least the past 12 months, or owned a homestead in another Maine municipality within the past 12 months and declare this homestead as your permanent place of residence, you may meet the requirements to qualify for a Homestead. Exemption under the terms of the homestead exemption statute Title 36 MRSA Sections 681-689. Please contact your local Town Office for more information.

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